

Iran threatens customers who switch to cheaper oil

The two-tier pricing structure by the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries may lead to cuts in oil sales for the 11 members who raised prices by 10 per cent. Iran, one of the 11, faced with a 10 per cent cut is threatening to put customers on a black list if they do not keep to their buying quotas.

Black list warning to 25 buyers

By Roger Vielvoje, Energy Correspondent

Iran, one of the 11 members of the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (Opec) who decided to increase oil prices by 10 per cent from January 1, is in danger of losing one-tenth of its expected oil sales this year because of a cut in the requirements of 25 customers.

The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) yesterday issued a statement from Tehran that this was due to undercutting by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, the two Opec members which fought for a 5 per cent price increase at last month's meeting in Doha.

But NIOC gave a warning that customers who did not meet their purchase contracts would be put on an Opec black list and the Iranian Government would take any action it deemed necessary.

Iran is the second of the price hawks to face a cut in oil production as its customers switch to cheaper supplies from Saudi Arabia and the UAE. On Tuesday, Mr Abdul Mutaleb al-Kazemi, Kuwait's oil minister, said a number of buyers had asked for reduced quantities of crude oil this year.

There were also suggestions that pressure on countries who put up these prices by 10 per cent could lead to early demands for an emergency meeting of the organization to thrash out a pricing compromise.

According to oil industry sources in London a number of companies are sounding out the producers about the effects of reducing their liftings from the 11 Opec members. But no company could make any definite plans until it was known how much additional oil would be available from Saudi Arabia.

After the Opec meeting in Doha last month, Shaikh Ahmed Zaid Yamani, the Saudi oil minister, announced that the 8.6 million barrel a day production ceiling would be lifted giving buyers access to 11.6 million barrels of oil.

Since this statement, however, there has been no positive indication from the Saudis of how much extra oil will be available and how it will be offered to customers.

This subject is undoubtedly being discussed at talks in London between Shaikh Yamani and the four American oil companies who still have a 40 per cent stake in the Arabian American Oil Company (ARAMCO) which operates all the Saudi oilfields.

In Tehran yesterday, NIOC said it had 25 new customers who had agreed to buy 1.2 million barrels of crude oil a day in 1977 but were now taking only 600,000 barrels a day. Iran would reduce its oil production because of the cutback.

The oil company said it had notified the 25 new customers that it was raising the price of crude oil by 10.4 per cent from January 1. The customers had agreed to this demand, but the company added:

"The 25 customers were not named; but sources in London said the greatest pressure on the Iranians to reduce their prices had come from Japanese buyers."

British Petroleum holds a 40 per cent stake in the Iranian consortium but has little access to the cheaper crudes from Saudi Arabia and the UAE.

Australians sending Britain bill for buried nuclear waste

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Australia is to ask the British Government to recommend and pay for long-term safety measures to protect 800 tonnes of radioactive waste, left over from weapons testing, and buried at three sites in Australia. The request from the Australian Government does not satisfy some anti-nuclear groups who are pressing for removal of the waste to Britain.

The material originates from military work by the Atomic Weapons Research Establishment, Aldermaston, when it was part of the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority.

It started to accumulate in 1956 after the nuclear test at Monte Bello and subsequent experiments at Maralinga, South Australia. The discovery of a specific consignment, reported to be 41 kilograms of plutonium buried in shallow trenches though in lead boxes, is causing the main concern.

Thought to be from a non-detoxified atomic bomb, it would be more concentrated than normal nuclear waste. A request for records of all the material is being made by the Ministry of Mines and Energy, South Australia, and by agencies as a matter of urgency. They want strict

monitoring procedures introduced in the storage areas. According to the Foreign Office in London yesterday, the Australians know all there is to know about the waste already and only last month had checked to see they had the right information.

The extent of the waste disposal operations is beginning to emerge from investigations by a network of regional environmental centres set up by the Australian Government. On the mistaken belief that some of the wastes are by-products of British nuclear power stations, the more anxious anti-nuclear groups are demanding that it be

returned to Britain. Much of the misunderstanding comes from secrecy over defence matters. Nevertheless, the waste accumulation associated with weapons tests has been buried at Monte Bello, Emu and Maralinga. A plea for more information has been made by scientific, conservation and environmental groups who have also formed a "uranium moratorium" movement.

Mr Frank Muller, a member of the Regional Environment Centre in New South Wales, and a representative of the moratorium group, said yesterday that a five-year moratorium would give time to debate the

issue publicly and to assess improvements in waste disposal, new safeguards for the non-proliferation of weapons material and other issues causing anxiety.

The campaign, he said, was being extended through environmental and conservation organizations to halt shipments of 9,000 tonnes of uranium over the next few years for United States, West German and Japanese nuclear power stations.

Proposals to open new uranium mines in Australia, which would increase the country's dominance as a supplier of this ore, were also being opposed.

£1m secret profit for Slater group, court told

By Stewart Tandler

Shares and cash worth up to £1m were siphoned from a Singapore company into a private investment company for the benefit of Mr James Slater and some of his executives, it was alleged yesterday on the first day of an application by the Singapore Government to extradite Mr Slater and Mr Richard Tarling, a former executive.

Mr Ronald Waterhouse, QC, appearing for the Singapore Government, told Mr Kenneth Burrell, the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, that by the time the private company was wound up Mr Slater and Mr Tarling had each been paid £200,000.

Mr Waterhouse said: "This secret profit, made not only by Slater and Tarling but by other Slater, Walker executives, was never disclosed to other shareholders or directors. It was simply pocketed."

Mr Slater, aged 47, of High Beeches, Blackhills, Essex, Surrey, faces six charges connected with the private company, which was called Spidar Securities Ltd. Mr Tarling, aged 42, of Church Road, Wimbledon, London, formerly chairman of Haw Par Brothers International Ltd, the company that supplied the cash and shares, faces 17 charges involving Spidar and two other companies.

At the beginning of the hearing, for which 11 working days have been allocated, Mr Waterhouse said the application dwelt on events that occurred after Slater, Walker gained 46 per cent of the shares of Haw Par in 1971. The company was well known in the Far East for the manufacture and marketing of pharmaceuticals.

Until Slater, Walker withdrew its interest in 1974 the holding varied but the executive director of Haw Par was in the hands of Slater, Walker. They were paid not by the Singapore company but by Slater, Walker, although they had the benefit of a



From left to right: Mr Len Murray, Mr Clive Jenkins, Dr Joan Mitchell, Mr Hugh Stephenson and Sir John Pridemore.

Wilson team named for review of City's role

By Andrew Goodrick-Clarke, Financial Editor

There was a subdued response in the City yesterday when the Prime Minister announced the composition of Sir Harold Wilson's committee to "review the functioning of the financial institutions."

Many were disappointed that no market specialist or merchant banker was among the 17 names.

Mr Ian Fraser, chairman of the City Capital Markets Committee, said that it was a notable and regrettable omission that no direct representative of the securities industry had been included. He also regretted the absence of a company lawyer on the committee.

Mr Robert Fell, Chief Executive of The Stock Exchange, said that on balance the Stock Exchange felt the com-

mittee had the makings of a "reasonable team". Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, is one of four prominent trade union figures in the list. Others are Lord Allen of Fallowfield, general secretary of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers; Mr Clive Jenkins, general secretary of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs; and Mr Leif Mills, general secretary of the National Union of Bank Employees.

Mr Jenkins and Mr Mills, because of their unions' membership in the financial sector, are closely involved in the controversial debate over Labour Party proposals to nationalize major banks and insurance companies.

Academics on the new committee are Professor Ralf Dahrendorf, Director of the London School of Economics; Professor Andrew Bain, Esme Fairbairn Professor of the Economics of Finance and Investment at the University of Stirling; Mr Andrew Graham, Fellow and Tutor in Economics at Balliol College, Oxford; and Dr John Mitchell, Reader in Economics at Nottingham University.

Representing interests in the business and financial world are Mr Gordon Bayley, director, manager and actuary of National Provident Institution for Mutual Life Assurance; Mr Zachary Brierley, chairman of a North Wales engineering business and a member of the Development Corporation for Wales; Sir Kenneth Bond, deputy managing director of the General Electric Company; Mr Kenneth Cork, senior partner in W. H. Cork, Gully, chartered accountants; Mr Richard Lloyd, chief executive of Williams and

Glyn's Bank; Mr David Orr, chairman of Unilever Ltd; Sir John Pridemore, chairman of National Westminster Bank; Mr Hugh Stephenson, Editor of The Times Business News; and Mr Arthur Sugden, chief executive officer of the Co-operative Wholesale Society.

Its terms of reference are "to inquire into the role and functioning at home and abroad of financial institutions in the United Kingdom and their value to the economy; to review in particular the provision of funds for industry and trade; to consider what changes are required in the existing arrangements for the supervision of these institutions; including the possible extension of the public sector, and to make recommendations."

The committee could take about two years to complete its task. Financial Editor, page 17

Mr Benn orders rapid inquiry on gas blasts

By a Staff Reporter

An immediate inquiry into the recent gas explosions was ordered yesterday by Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, and Sir Denis Rooke, chairman of the British Gas Corporation. It appears that the inquiry is being established swiftly in order to reassure worried gas users and to ascertain whether new safeguards are needed.

The usual procedure in such cases would be for British Gas to complete its investigations into the incidents before the Department of Energy decided whether any further inquiry was necessary. However, Mr Benn has moved swiftly, bypassing that procedure. The type of inquiry is also unusual, since it will be carried out by both the department and the corporation, not for the department alone.

The inquiry panel of three will be chaired by Dr Philip King, senior lecturer in chemical engineering at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology. Another member is likely to come from British Gas. The inquiry's report will be presented to Parliament and published as soon as possible.

The inquiry is asked to examine all the circumstances surrounding the recent incidents at Bristol, Brentford, Beckenham, Bradford and elsewhere, and "to establish the extent of common factors that may have been present against the background of statistics relating to recent experience of serious gas explosions."

A girl aged 11 months died in an explosion that wrecked her family's semi-detached house in the village of Roborough, Strathclyde. It is believed to have been caused by a leak in a liquid petroleum gas system used for heating.

New measures, or improvements in existing procedures or systems, which might help to reduce the severity of such incidents will be considered.

The total number of serious gas explosions in 1976 is not yet known, but up to the end of November there had been 89. There were 75 such explosions in 1975.

Mr William Molloy, Labour MP for Ealing, North, has argued that people fail to report gas leaks for fear of being heavily charged for repairs. British Gas said yesterday that more people than usual were reporting possible leaks.

No charge is made for checking meters, or pipes carrying gas from mains to meters or for carrying out necessary repairs. But a charge may be made for repairs to a customer's appliances or to pipes between it and the meter.

Ethylene explosion: Six people were injured when an ethylene gas cylinder exploded in a wholesale fruit warehouse in Huddersfield yesterday. Mr Harry Studd, aged 49, of Bradford, was working in the freezer section when the blast occurred, was badly burnt and taken to hospital, where his condition last night was satisfactory. Five office workers escaped with minor injuries and shock.

A girl aged 11 months died in an explosion that wrecked her family's semi-detached house in the village of Roborough, Strathclyde. It is believed to have been caused by a leak in a liquid petroleum gas system used for heating.

Airline cuts the price of holidays

By Patricia Tisdall

British Airways, the state-owned airline, whose Sovereign and Enterprise holiday services are the third largest in Britain, said yesterday that it was reducing some holiday prices by between 2 and 13 per cent.

The offer, which will be heavily advertised, will apply to between 15,000 and 20,000 holidays booked between January 10 and March 31 for departure between April 1 and June 30. The discounts of £10 to £20 on brochure prices will apply to holidays in several countries, including Spain, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Kenya and Mauritius.

The airline is also extending until further notice its "no surcharge guarantee" which was to have covered only holidays booked before the end of this month.

Like the rest of the holiday trade, British Airways has suffered a sharp fall in bookings. It says they are down by about a fifth compared with last year. The launching of the scheme was brought forward in response to an offer last week by Thomson Holidays to freeze prices.

British Airways said last night that hoteliers, particularly in Spain, Portugal and Italy, had cooperated in the discount plan by giving price concessions.

Tour operators, airlines and hoteliers are worried about the threat towards being as little as 10 days before departure. Until last year, most summer holiday inclusive-tour bookings were made before the end of February.

Tour operators say they need early bookings to plan seat and room allocations and control cash flow. They are prepared to cut prices to get them.

Several last year sidestepped an Association of British Travel Agents' rule to prohibit price cutting, but the rule is expected to be dropped shortly. Thomson Holidays has been offering discounts on some tours since last summer, but the British Airways scheme is the largest of its type and comes much earlier than any previous price-cutting offers.

World cruise: More than 1,200 people set sail from Southampton last night on an 86-day cruise round the world. It is the only sailing of its kind from Britain this winter. They paid between £1,187 and £7,171 for the cruise in the P & O flag-ship Canberra, which will take them to 21 ports in five continents.

Consolation for Mr Humphrey: Washington, Jan 5.—Mr Hubert Humphrey, the Democratic Party's elder statesman who was denied this week the job of Senate majority leader, was given an unprecedented consolation post by the party's senators today.

They agreed to name him "deputy president pro tem" of the Senate, ranking just behind the longest serving Senator, Mr James Eastland. He will thus be a member of the congressional leadership group that advises the President.

Tangshan earthquake 'killed over 650,000'

Hongkong, Jan 5.—The South China Morning Post, quoting what it called a secret Chinese Communist Party document, said today that 655,237 people died in the earthquake which devastated the northern Chinese city of Tangshan last July.

No official death toll has been given for the earthquake which struck the coal-mining centre. But Chairman Hua Kuo-feng said last month that it caused death and destruction on a scale "rarely seen in history".

Western observers in Peking had earlier estimated the death toll at 100,000. The newspaper quoted what it described as a classified document of the Hopei province party committee and revolutionary committee. It said the document was tabled at an emergency conference on relief work in the province last August.

The document quoted preliminary statistics showing that 655,237 people had died, 79,600 had been badly injured and 700,000 others had suffered lesser injuries. The newspaper said the earthquake, which occurred on July 28, virtually destroyed Tangshan, an industrial city with a population of 1,600,000 about 105 miles southeast of Peking. It also wreaked extensive damage in Tientsin, China's third largest city, with a population of 4,300,000.

The Chinese Government declined all offers of foreign aid. The greatest recorded loss of life from an earthquake occurred in China more than 400 years ago, on January 23, 1556. An estimated 830,000 persons were killed then in Shensi province, in central China.

The next highest death toll in the historical records was 300,000 in Calcutta on October 11, 1737.—Reuter and AP.

One dead and 54 hurt as school buses and a coal lorry crash

A man died and 54 people, most of them children, were injured in a crash in which a coal lorry rolled over and the side of a school bus was ripped open, near Nottigham, Nottinghamshire, yesterday.

The man who died was the driver of the lorry, Mr Matthew Garland, aged 34, of White Road, Stapleford, Derbyshire, who was trapped in his vehicle.

A second school bus was involved. Both were taking children from the colliery villages of Bilthorpe and Eakring to their comprehensive school at Rainworth, about five miles from Mansfield, for the start of the new term.

The crash occurred at Pythou Bill, Rainworth, and the police said it might have been caused by the greasy road surface. Three miles of the A617 was blocked for nearly six hours, and heavy lifting gear was called in to clear the wreckage.

Sixteen children and one of the bus drivers were still in hospital last night. Two of the children were in the intensive care unit at Mansfield General Hospital. They are Evelyn Shepperson, of Saville Road, and Kevin Henson, of Church Street, both Bilthorpe. The driver, Mr Albert Elliot, of New Street, Huthwaite, Nottinghamshire, was seriously injured.

A hundred children were travelling in the two double-deck buses. Firemen worked to free some of them from the wreckage while doctors gave pain-killing drugs. A public house was turned into a temporary hospital.

A senior policeman said: "The scene was like a battlefield. Children were wandering across fields in a state of shock."

Mr Brian Wilde, an ambulance officer from Mansfield, said one bus looked as though it had been hit by a bomb. "The top deck had come crashing down on the lower deck."

Trevor Weldon, aged 15, of Saville Road, Bilthorpe, who was in the second bus, said: "Glass shattered everywhere. One boy had a piece of glass in his eye."

Motorway crash. Ten people were taken to hospital after a coach overturned and crashed into the central barrier on the M4 near Chippenham, Wiltshire. They were the only occupants of the 45-seat coach, which was returning to Maidenhead, Berkshire, from Bristol.

Two seriously injured passengers were detained in hospital at Swindon. They are Mr Peter Watson, aged 32, of Westwood Green, Chippenham, Berkshire, and Miss Phillips Breakspere, aged 21.

Photograph, page 3

Talks on pit retirement in difficulties

Talks on the miners' claim for early retirement have run into difficulties. Miners' leaders were told by the coal board that the Government would not provide money to allow pitmen to retire before the state retirement age. But the coal board made its improved offer which would allow retirement phased down to 60 by 1980 after 20 years' service underground, with a starting date when the incomes policy ended. There will be further talks today.

Two soldiers hurt in Belfast shooting: Two soldiers were seriously wounded in a gunfight in the republican Turf Lodge district of west Belfast. Two men, one wounded, were arrested. Earlier the Ulster Volunteer Force said it was ending its ceasefire, which it says it has observed for 12 months.

EEC gap widens: Mr George Thomson, the outgoing European Commissioner, for regional policy, has criticised the EEC's farm policy for widening the gap between rich and poor areas.

New safety check on lift system

The use of 73 so-called Paternoster lift installations in Britain that have not had new safety devices built into their systems by next September will be prohibited, the Health and Safety Executive said. Stringent checks are also to be made on the lifts every six months instead of once a year. Page 2

England in control

England seem certain to win the second Test match today in Calcutta and take a 2-0 lead in the series. India's batting failed on a crumbling wicket for the second time. India reached 145 for seven wickets in their second innings and still need 21 runs to avoid an innings defeat. John Woodcock, page 6

Dearer car cover

General Accident, the largest United Kingdom motor insurer with more than one million policies, is to increase premiums on private cars by 12 per cent and on commercial vehicles by 14 per cent from February 1. Page 15

Economic block

Resolutions on the agenda for a conference of the National and Local Government Officers' Association reflect mounting opposition in the union movement to the Government's economic policies. Page 2

Loan repayment cuts Britain's reserves

Britain's reserves of gold and foreign currency fell by \$1,027m last month to \$4,129m. The fall was caused by the repayment of \$1,545m borrowed from nine industrial nations under the special grand-by agreed during the summer. There was some improvement in the underlying position, however, and the Bank of England was able to buy back some of the foreign currency it sold earlier in the year. Page 15

Soweto schools open

Black students in Soweto began going back to school after months of unrest in the Johannesburg township, raising hopes that the new term would bring a return to normality. Police kept their pledge to stay off the campuses. Page 6

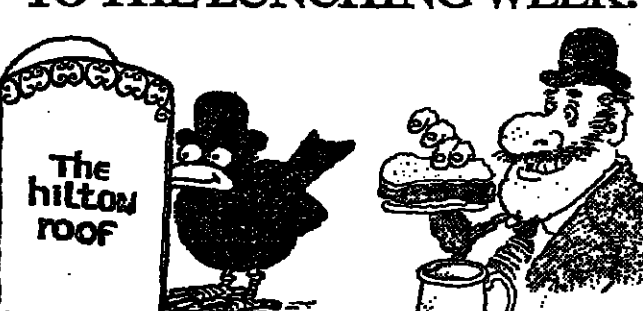
Gambling fever: Separate betting shops for those who just want to place a bet and for gamblers who need the excitement of race commentaries are proposed by the Churches Council on Gambling. Page 3

Rhodesia: Botswana considers the proposal for a "neutral" British presence in an interim government "an idea worth pursuing. Page 5

Leader page, 13
Lecture: On the level of management salaries, from Professor C. J. Constable; on the hereditary peerage, from Mr Humphrey Berkeley and Mr John Lee, MP; on advisory politics, from Lord Greenfield; on the Christian Church, from Lord 1976, from Mrs Margaret Brown. Leading articles: Trial by jury; Israel; The counter-fabians. Features, pages 9 and 12. Bernard Levin traces the path leading to dictatorship in India; R. Prudence Glynn on Sir Norman Harnett's political fashion. Arts, page 11. John Neville interviewed by Michael Leach; Alan Coren and Stanley Reynolds on television; Irving Wardle on Loaded Questions (King's Head); John Percival on Swan Lake (Covent Garden). Books, page 8. Michael Randle on Stefan Heym's novel Five Days in June; Louis Heron on Past Forward by Guy Summersby Morgan. Sport, pages 6 and 7. Football: FA Cup team news; Racing: Prospects for Taunton; Cricket: Lillee again wrecks Pakistan innings in Melbourne. Business News, pages 15-20. Stock market: Equities rallied from early weakness and the FT index closed 21 up at 362.7. Financial Editor: An omission from Sir Harold Wilson's team; Test still to come for bank lending; Bullock posers for the multi-nationals. Peter Jay Column: What Lord Kaldor has to say about inflation and recession. Business features: Peter Norman on the Cornish trade unions' search for an alternative way of organizing the economy. Page 5

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THE BUSINESSMAN'S GUIDE TO THE LUNCHING WEEK.



MONDAY. The Roof Restaurant. 300 feet above London, the cuisine is, naturally, haute.

TUESDAY. St. George's Bar. A pub lunch like pub lunches used to be, by George.

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HOME NEWS

Churches say 'action' gamblers need separate betting shops

By Marcel Berlins

There should be separate betting offices for serious gamblers who want to "get into the action" and for punters who just want to have a bet, the Churches' Council on Gambling proposes.

In evidence to the Royal Commission on Gambling, published yesterday, the council says that there are two types of gambler and requires separate environments.

The "action" gambler needs the excitement of the race commentary. The other kind of punter merely wants somewhere where he can place a bet and return later to pick up his winnings.

The betting office atmosphere, including commentaries, serves as an incentive to bet on more than one race and even non-gamblers feel that influence.

"Action" gambling is continuous and circular. The transmitted voice (of the commentary), itself unexcited and unexciting, excitingly beats out the rhythm," the council says.

The conditions which provide the necessary medium for "action" gambling constitute a stumbling block for those who wish only to have a bet, and become a vehicle of disaster for compulsive gamblers.

The council accepts that if premises were to be set aside for "action" betting as it proposes, "they would probably become gambling bells. We recoil from that prospect."

but for some that is what betting offices are now.

The memorandum of evidence suggests that "action" betting premises could be subject to an admission charge to ensure that those who enter do so as a matter of decision and effort.

There is also a need to prepare the social, health, probation and after-care services to deal with the casualties that would almost certainly follow from the introduction of separate "action" betting.

The council proposes the establishment of a general Gambling Board which would be an independent national supervisory body, with divisions concerned with the main branches of gambling: betting, gaming and lotteries, and with a fourth division keeping under review the connection between gambling and activities such as the distribution of funds.

The council opposes the introduction of Sunday horseracing. The use of betting offices on Sunday, as well as Saturday, "would have a devastating effect on the lives of many people and their families," it says.

It calls for gambling operators to be kept under review. "Large companies in any field of commerce or industry tend to maximize efficiency in the sense of increasing profit margins."

The council also wants to see bingo limited to the traditional "friendly and neighbourly" game. The intrusion of quicker-moving, higher intensity forms should be illegal, it says.



The scene at Python Hill, Rainworth, Nottinghamshire, yesterday, after two school buses and a lorry had crashed, leaving a man dead and 54 people hurt.

Social trends 4: Changing pattern of employment

Shift towards public-sector work

By David Walker

For every seven social workers employed by local authorities in 1971 there were 10 last year. Employment in the health service increased at an equal rate and the whole public sector offered more than 700,000 additional jobs during the same period.

Probably the most striking growth took place in local authorities, which were administratively reorganized in 1974. While local authority staff increased at an average annual rate of 80,000 between the later 1950s and early 1970s, since 1971 they have increased at a rate of more than 90,000 a year at least until the Central Statistical Office survey last year.

Work in the public service attracts an increasing proportion of graduates. After an increase from 1971 to 1973, the numbers of graduates entering industry and commerce dropped, and last summer there were about two taking such jobs, compared with five work-

ing in the public service or teaching.

However, the tendency to enter public sector work should not be exaggerated, since the proportion of the total employed labour force in public-sector jobs is now only 4 per cent higher than in the late 1950s, when it was just over 25 per cent.

The fall in numbers employed by the nationalized industries of coal and transport has continued. The change is reflected in the fall in the membership of the National Union of Mineworkers and the National Union of Railwaymen by more than a half since the 1950s. There has been a continuing decline in numbers employed in agriculture and fishing, transport and manufacturing, to the benefit of insurance and banking.

The characteristics of the employable population have changed little. The numbers of unemployed have climbed rapidly since 1973, though the proportion of those out of a job for about a fortnight, pre-

sumably while changing jobs, has remained steady.

There seems to have been an increase in recent years in job-mobility. Whereas a quarter of young workers aged between 16 and 24 changed jobs in 1972, a third did so in 1974. The section of the employable population in prison has remained constant since 1970 at about 38,000 men and 1,000 women.

The rewards of work appear to be slightly more evenly distributed among manual workers, probably due to a lessening of differentials. The classification of earned income as a whole shows the earnings of wives to have become more important. There seems to have been a reduction in the importance of degrees as a sign of high earnings.

Work remains a comparatively dangerous place. Last year in the mines and oil processing there were nearly twenty deaths for every 100,000 employees: 13 in shipbuilding and 17 in general construction.

Next: Regions and classes

Union votes urged to counter left

The unions will hold a key role during 1977 in putting the Labour Party into better shape for winning an election the following year, according to an editorial article in the January issue of *Socialist Commentary*.

In particular, it says, they should use their block votes to ensure a "rapid clear-out" in the women's section of the national executive committee where the left-wing dominance is impossible to justify.

The journal, a forum for "moderate" Labour opinion, observes: "The majority of trade union leaders want, and know that they represent the majority of their members in wanting, a Labour Party that is a thoroughgoing democratic socialist one."

This means not just a party where left extremism is combated, but also one where the "legitimate left", the *Tribune* group supporters, "have their proper place in the party—which is as one element in the broad spectrum that a Labour Party in a two-party system must cover, but a minority element."

A good rule of thumb would be that *Tribune* group types should have about a quarter of the places in party institutions the article says.

On infiltration of the party by *Militant* group Trotskyists, the editorial says there is evidence that the group is organized as a "party within the party."

It continues: "This is, and has been for a long time, contrary to the party's rules."

Inquiry into risks of inoculation requested

By John Roper

Health Services Correspondent
The Parliamentary Commissioner for Health and the Attorney General have been asked to investigate fears that children have suffered brain damage after routine vaccinations, and to establish where responsibility lies if such damage is proved.

Mr Jack Ashley, Labour MP for Stoke-on-Trent, South, in a letter to Sir Idwal Pugh, the commissioner, says that three hundred previously healthy children have been turned into "human cabbages" by immunization.

Conservative and Labour governments have so far refused a proper investigation, he says.

Mr Ashley says that ministers have seemed to suggest that anything to do with immunization is a matter for individual doctors.

In a letter to Mr Samuel Silkin, the Attorney General, he says that at present, if damage to a child can be proved to be due to inoculation, the responsibility seems to lie with individual doctors.

That, Mr Ashley points out, has grave implications for doctors. He requests Mr Silkin to give advice about where responsibility lies. He has also written to Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, suggesting that he should establish a compensation scheme for those injured and those who may be affected.

In brief

New colours for bottle tops

Regulations laid before Parliament yesterday extend the existing colour code for milk bottle caps to include sterilized and ultra-heat-treated milk. The regulations come into force on July 5.

The new colours for bottle caps are blue for sterilized milk and pink for ultra-heat-treated. Lettering may be black and silver and may be embossed.

Water restriction ends

Yorkshire's last water supply restriction was lifted yesterday. For the first time since September, 1975, people in the south-western division of the Yorkshire Water Authority's area will be able to use a hose for washing cars and watering gardens.

Police test motor cycle

Surrey police have ordered nine more German-made BMW motor cycles but a decision on the make of the remaining eight in its vehicle-replacement programme will depend on results of test runs on the British Triumph Saint 750cc machine.

Pilot escapes crash

Mr Leslie Banks, aged 56, of Ealing, London, escaped with a fractured jaw and face cuts yesterday when the Cassa plane he was piloting crashed into a wood at Stoughton, near Chichester.

Bluebell profit

The privately owned Bluebell railway in Sussex announced yesterday that 1976 has been its most successful year, with 13 per cent more fare-paying passengers than in 1975.

MPs relinquish seats

The Chancellor of the Exchequer has appointed Mr Jenkins to the Chiltern Hundreds, and Mr Christopher Tugendhat to the Manor of Northstead.

Tunnel tryst

Construction men working from the ends of the new Dartford tunnel under the Thames are expected to meet next week 120ft below the middle of the river.

No 'Morning Star'

The *Morning Star* was not published today because of a dispute with the National Graphical Association over payments for working on the New Year Bank Holiday.

Safari park for sale

Windsor Safari Park is for sale for about £1.5m from the Smart circus family. Offers received include one from Ladbroke.

14% acquitted of rape later convicted

By My Medical Correspondent

Men charged with rape and acquitted are just as likely to commit sexual offences as those convicted, it appears from a follow-up of all those charged with the offence in England in 1961. The survey was part of a research project organized by Professor L. C. N. Gibbens, of the Institute of Psychiatry in London.

His team examined the subsequent progress of the 207 men convicted and the 59 acquitted in 1961. About a quarter were charged with offences against children; 12 were reconvicted, six for indecent exposure.

Among the adult rapists the reconviction rate was 12 per cent; 14 per cent of those acquitted in 1961 were later convicted of sexual offences. One man, however, was acquitted on three occasions.

Lord Goodman attacks dual legal system

Division of the legal profession into solicitors and barristers, created a procedure that was cumbersome, ritualistic and expensive, Lord Goodman said in London yesterday. It took two, three or four people to do the work of one.

Addressing the United Lawyers' Association, which believes in fusion of the profession, Lord Goodman, who is a solicitor, said he had yet to hear a cogent argument for the existing division. He had seen recent indications of lack of public confidence in the legal system.

One reason why the "battle for press freedom against the closed shop" had been lost was because the unions had made clear that they had no respect for the legal system.

"We need a legal profession that speaks the language of the people among whom it moves," he said.

Former official denies typewriter charge

Mr Joseph Cooper, former chief public relations officer for Greater Manchester Council, will deny two summonses alleging that he stole or dishonestly received an electric typewriter, Manchester City Magistrates were told yesterday.

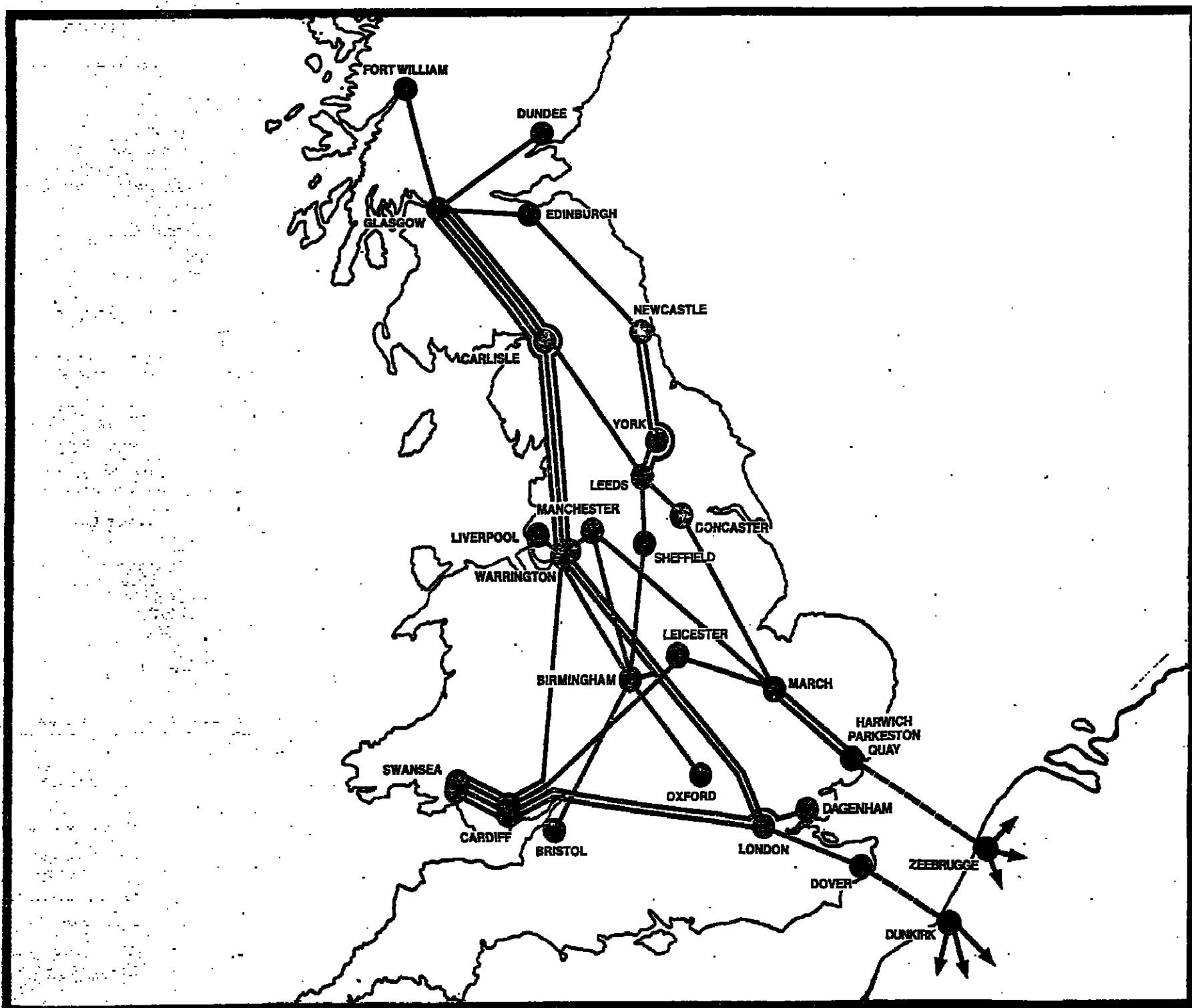
Mr Cooper, aged 49, of

Dovercourt Avenue, Heaton Mersey, Stockport, was sent for trial to Manchester Crown Court on his own bail of £50. Mr Ian Burton, for the defence, asking for press restrictions to be lifted, told the court: "It appears fashionable to bring matters concerning people in local government to trial at the

Crown Court at great expense. My client denies these allegations."

Alan Glover, aged 47, of Arnold Avenue, Heywood, was sent for trial accused of stealing an electric typewriter. His solicitor, Mr Geoffrey Miller, said he also would deny the offence.

A New Concept in Rail Freight



Railfreight is expanding its network of overnight trains. Last October, two new routes were introduced linking Dover and Central Scotland, the Midlands, Tyneside and South Wales. Services now operate from all the main centres shown, including ferry trains direct into Europe. And more are planned for 1977.

It means a new era of daily scheduled wagonload services complementing the established pattern of company "block" trains.

New types of wagons—another thousand have just been ordered—give better riding, can carry greater loads and operate at higher speeds.

TOPS, British Rail's own computer based control system can pinpoint wagons anywhere on the network in seconds.

It all adds up to a new, improved type of service for Railfreight's customers. Faster, strictly controlled and highly competitive.



Railfreight

WEST EUROPE

Spanish reforms keep up momentum of drive to democracy

From Harry Debelius Madrid, Jan 5

It was King Juan Carlos's thirty-ninth birthday today and Spaniards had a few things to celebrate: a decree excluding conscientious objectors from military service; the temporary avoidance of a collapse in negotiations between the Government and opposition; the release of a number of demonstrators; and a more liberal draft of a law to legalize trade unions.

The text of the conscientious objection decree, published today, says that objectors may serve in "posts of civic interest" rather than in the armed forces, but this service will last for three years compared to the average conscript's service of one year to 18 months.

Leaders of the principal opposition parties avoided statements with the Government by designating a "forward" team with no Communist member to begin negotiations with Señor Adolfo Suárez, the Prime Minister, on the preparation for the country's move towards democracy.

There had been some concern that the opposition insisted on having a Communist member on the team the Government would refuse to meet it.

The opposition party leaders did not actually renounce their demand for legalization of all parties including the Communist Party; they simply put off the eventual showdown.

Paris talks on Giscard visit to Saudi Arabia

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris, Jan 5

President Giscard d'Estaing today met Prince Saud al-Faisal, the Foreign Minister of Saudi Arabia, to discuss his state visit to the Kingdom later this month. The King had sent a personal message from King Khalid, underlining the mutual importance placed on the visit by the two heads of state.

Cooperation in tackling the West's economic problems will obviously dominate the President's talks in Riyadh. However, the agenda includes other items, among them a possible nuclear deal, technical assistance, sale of sophisticated weaponry and economic agreements.

The four-day visit will be the first by Saudi Arabia by the French President. The economic windfalls that result from such visits assure them a special character. However, there is no doubt that this one is of particular importance to President Giscard d'Estaing.

He has done much to foster the North-South dialogue between raw material producing and industrialized countries, and is throwing his weight behind efforts to make 1977 the year in which a determined attempt is made to solve the Middle East crisis.

Furthermore, there is evidence that the two heads of state are anxious to develop their cooperation far beyond what had been envisaged to

over the issue by the tactical manoeuvre. They have given their team the specific task of negotiating on only two issues: a broader amnesty and recognition for all political parties.

Although a head-on collision has thus been avoided, it could come later. Opposition leaders told reporters last night that a second team—possibly including a Communist—will be chosen to handle the next round of talks with the Prime Minister and discuss the democratic guarantees needed for holding elections.

Police freed an unspecified number of people in the Basque city of San Sebastian who had been taken into custody during the past few days in connexion with demonstrations in favour of a broader amnesty. They were released just in time to take part in traditional family festivities winding up the Christmas season, including the throwing of gifts as exchanged in Spain.

The independent Madrid daily *El País* reported today that a parliamentary committee, which is studying government proposals for legislative trade unions, has modified the Government's proposal, making the text more liberal. The proposed law is to be presented in the near future to a plenary session of the Cortes for approval. The first draft of the proposed law merely referred to "associations" of workers; the latest version uses the term "organizations". The new version also makes it a less onerous procedure to gain legal recognition for a trade union.

Congressmen who keep their finances private would be asked at having to fulfil what is to be required of all senior political appointees after Mr Carter's inauguration on January 20.

They must make available for public inspection a complete current net worth statement, detailing all their assets and liabilities and those of their wives, minor children and other members of their immediate households. The statement must also detail sources of current wealth. Similar statements will be made public during an appointee's time in office, and in the two years after departure from government.

These "ethics" guidelines require that any "severance benefits", including merit awards, given to appointees as they depart from their firms to take up office will be scrutinized.

Any "preexisting established plan" for reward can be followed, but anything beyond six months' salary or above \$50,000 (£30,000) to \$75,000 "would need careful examination".

The requirements are expected to cause difficulties for a number of the wealthy businessmen Mr Carter has appointed. Some of them have lifetime consultancy payment arrangements with big firms, which will have to be waived.

This is especially clear in the requirement for full public financial disclosure by the 2,000 senior appointees to government, who must also pledge to serve a full term, and not, for one year after leaving government, to make even an informal contact for remuneration with any employee of the government department or agency they served.

This rules out the "sweetheart" arrangements under which departing government officials have been promptly employed to lobby the department they had just left.

Officials must also pledge that for two years after leaving government, they will make no paid contact with a member of the executive branch regarding a specified business matter.

Greece replaces head of EEC negotiations team

From Our Correspondent Athens, Jan 5

The Greek Government today replaced Mr Nicos Kyriazidis as chief negotiator with the EEC after disagreements involving the conditions for Greece's full membership of the Community.

He is succeeded by Mr Vyrion Theodoropoulos, Secretary-General of the Foreign Ministry and former Ambassador to the Community.

The negotiations for Greek membership, which began in earnest in Brussels last month, are highlighting the practical difficulties of accession. Announcing the changes, Mr Theodoropoulos, Minister of Coordination and Planning, who is responsible for the negotiations, said the Government was "determined to negotiate with tenacity in order to safeguard the economic interests of the country and particularly of Greek exporters and farmers".

The person most upset by the meetings was the Socialist deputy mayor of Rome, Signor Alberto Benozzi, who stayed away from the papal audience in protest. He said later that he regarded meetings as useless for solving the city's problems.

He claimed many of these problems had been created by large-scale building speculation by religious organizations which own a large proportion of the property in Rome. "One might expect a minimum of self-criticism from the church on the subject", he said.

The deputy mayor's objections were supported by a Republican spokesman, the extreme left-wing Proletarian Democracy Party and by the Catholic newspaper *L'Espresso*, which has been consistently accused of "bootlicking" the church.

The Vatican newspaper *Osservatore Romano* today deplored an article in the Italian weekly, *L'Espresso*, giving a long list of what it claimed was Vatican property in Rome, held through various organizations. The magazine said the church owned about one-quarter of the city.

OVERSEAS

Mr Carter's business likely to stay in family

From Fred Emery Washington, Jan 5

Mr Jimmy Carter's peanut business is likely to stay in the family, in spite of his decision to place his majority share in the hands of a trustee who has authority to sell it or lease it for the period of his presidency.

The arrangements announced yesterday, which provide for Mr Carter to receive cash income from his holdings while in office and to reclaim most of them afterwards, have been widely welcomed as going beyond existing legal requirements.

The multimillion dollar peanut broking firm known as Carter's Warehouse is likely to continue under the management of Mr Billy Carter, the President-elect's younger brother. He has let it be known he has "first option" under the arrangements. Since he has said he cannot afford to buy out his brother's large holding, it is assumed the business will be leased back to him.

It is thought that the trustee might be Mr Charles Kirby, the Atlanta lawyer and a longstanding close adviser of Mr Carter, who is not taking a formal government post.

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Nerve illness 'followed 1973 farm contamination'

Continued from page 1

amounts of PBB left in Michigan's food supply.

Dr Sellikoff's team examined 1,029 people in Grand Rapids over a six-day period in November. Of the group, 638 were selected at random both from families on farms quarantined because of PBB poisoning and on farms that had not been quarantined, and from families who purchased food from such farms.

The rest of the group included people whose doctors had sent them; those who asked to be examined and employees of the Michigan Chemical Co. where PBB was made.

The most common effect found involved disturbances of the nervous system, including memory loss, muscular weakness, coordination difficulties, headache and sleep disorders.

In some cases, the difficulties were so disabling that those affected were unable to continue working.

Of the 638 randomly selected subjects, 37 per cent had neurological symptoms. In addition, 27 per cent were found to have suffered from painful or swollen joints.

A neurologist in the New York team said many of those examined appeared neurologically like elderly people, but were in fact in their 30s.

Skin disorders were found in 21 per cent of the randomly selected farm residents and consumers, and 16 per cent complained of gastro-intestinal difficulties such as abdominal pain and diarrhoea.

Altogether almost a third of this group reported that their health had deteriorated since the contaminated feed was distributed by the Michigan Farm Bureau.

Dr Sellikoff said the prevalence of ill health in the Michigan group was higher than that found in other groups his team had examined, including workers exposed to vinyl chloride and lead.

The team also found a sugges-



Representative Max Baucus (Democrat, Montana) bottle-feeding his baby at the formal opening of Congress on Tuesday. Wives and families were invited to attend and thousands thronged the Capitol.

Mr Murdoch's peace approach is rejected

From Peter Strafford New York, Jan 5

Mr Clay Felker, president of the New York Magazine Company, today rejected an approach from Mr Rupert Murdoch, the Australian newspaper owner, aimed at reaching an amicable settlement of Mr Murdoch's takeover bid.

Mr Felker claims the arrangement violates an agreement he had with Mr Burden giving him the right of first refusal if Mr Burden wanted to sell out.

Mr Felker has been backed by his staff because they are apprehensive about Mr Murdoch's reputation as a newspaper publisher.

Some of them are also concerned about the company being taken over by a foreigner.

the takeover bid will probably go to court. Mr Murdoch claims to have acquired more than half the magazine company's stock, but Mr Felker contests the legality of an arrangement by which Mr Murdoch bought 24 per cent of the shares from Mr Carter Burden, a member of the New York City Council.

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Some of them are also concerned about the company being taken over by a foreigner.

Greek Foreign Minister on visit to Belgrade

From Our Correspondent Athens, Jan 5

Mr Demetrios Bisis, the Greek Foreign Minister, left for Belgrade today on an official visit. Greece and Yugoslavia have felt the need to reinforce their links because of increasing fears of a Soviet intervention in Yugoslavia "after Tito".

Croat-Yugoslav military cooperation consists of exchanges on matters of military contingency, but it remains discreet and restrained in line with Yugoslavia's determination to stay non-aligned.

The Greek children would like to see Yugoslavia integrated in a regional defence pact, but they admit now that this is not feasible.

Most of the children's symptoms had abated by last spring. "We should have looked one or two years ago," he said.—New York Times News Service.

Michael Horsnell writes: The Health and Safety Commission in London is now considering whether action under PBB needs to be taken in Britain following Dr Sellikoff's findings.

About 12 million lb of PBB were sold by the Michigan Chemical Co. the only manufacturer, between 1971 and November 1974, but it is not known how much was imported by British companies.

The commission said that its use has only been on a "very low scale" and warnings have not been thought necessary so far.

But officials will be deciding whether a great enough danger exists to necessitate the difficult task of finding who imported PBB until 1974, when American health authorities discovered it can cause cancer and genetic defects.

PBB has probably been used in the production of polystyrene foam, furnishings and electronic components.

The substance was made in the same Michigan factory as a magnesium oxide supplement for animal feed and packaged in distinctly marked bags.

But in 1973 the company ran out of marked bags and the two products were packaged in brown paper bags with the names stencilled on in black.

Widespread poisoning of animals, and later people, followed when a lorry driver loaded the wrong bags for delivery to a Michigan Farm Bureau depot.

Botswana sympathetic to Rhodesia proposals

From Nicholas Ashford Johannesburg, Jan 5

Mr Ivor Richard, chairman of the Rhodesian settlement talks, was today given the clearest indication of support so far received during his southern African tour for a "neutral" British presence in an interim Rhodesian Government.

After a two-hour meeting with Sir Seretse Khama, in Gaborone this morning, Mr Richard said the Botswana President considered the British proposal "an idea worth pursuing". Sir Seretse, he said, had been "sympathetic and helpful listener" when various British proposals to bring about a peaceful settlement in Rhodesia were put to him.

Sir Seretse is expected to discuss the question of a proposed British presence in an interim Rhodesian Government with the Presidents of Mozambique, Tanzania and Zambia when they meet in Lusaka this weekend.

As the most "moderate" of the four front-line presidents with whom Mr Richard is holding talks, he is likely to be the most sympathetic towards the British plan.

A more daunting task faces Mr Richard tomorrow when he begins his talks in Mozambique, which supports the most militant elements among the black nationalists. It provides a base for guerrilla operations against Rhodesia and has expressed suspicion about alleged British "neo-colonialist" intentions in Rhodesia.

As a forerunner of the sort of militancy which will confront Mr Richard in Maputo, Mozambique Radio has broadcast five demands made by the Zimbabwe People's Army (Ziwa).

These were that Britain should stop treating Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, as a respectable

politician; it should stop manoeuvring to set up a puppet government in Salisbury; halt the supply of British mercenaries and arms to the Smith regime; prevent the British media from publishing lies and slanders against the people of Zimbabwe (Rhodesia) and Ziwa; and end the charade of presenting Britain's latest settlement proposals as moves to establish peace in Rhodesia, when the opposite was true.

It is unclear at this stage whether Mr Richard, in addition to meeting President Machel and other Mozambican leaders, will have talks with Mr Robert Mugabe, one of the joint leaders of the Patriotic Front, and representative at the Geneva talks for some of the Rhodesian guerrillas. So far Bishop Abel Muzorewa has been the only nationalist leader Mr Richard has seen during his present tour.

Addis Ababa, Jan 5.—A senior official of the Patriotic Front said today that it wanted an intensification of the armed struggle in Rhodesia to bring Mr Ian Smith's Government to reason.

Mr Joseph Msika, general secretary of Mr Joshua Nkomo's faction of the African National Council, said, however, that a negotiated settlement of the dispute would be welcome.

Mr Msika, here for a meeting with the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) officials yesterday, told Reuters he would be surprised if the Geneva conference on Rhodesia resumed as planned on January 17, though it might resume later.

He said he could see few results coming out of the present visit to southern Africa by Mr Richard, because the British and Americans were trying to involve the nationalists in proposals which they had no part in forming.

Salisbury bus boycott

From Our Own Correspondent Salisbury, Jan 5

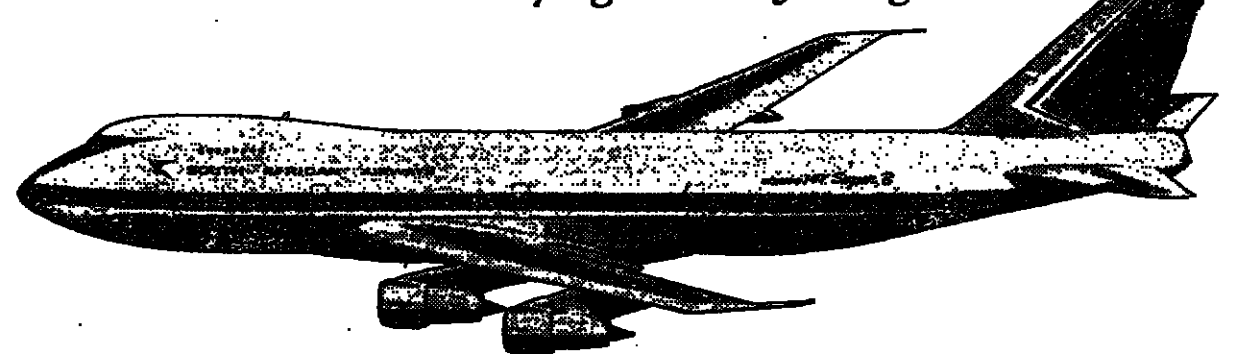
Thousands of black commuters continued to boycott Salisbury's buses today in protest at the dismissal of about 800 drivers and conductors all of whom had spent Christmas in prison.

The bus company employees lost their jobs for refusing to end a strike begun on Christmas Eve over the size of a Christmas bonus. Within hours of the strike starting, police arrested them.

After spending six days in jail, at one stage packed 60 to a room, the men were released on payment of a fine of 30 Rhodesian dollars (£30) but those who still refused to work—the majority—were dismissed.

A recruiting drive for new conductors and drivers was mounted and a limited service began yesterday. Most buses remained empty, however, commuters relying on lifts or private tax services. It was the same today.

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OVERSEAS

Hopes rise for end to unrest as Soweto pupils drift back to school

From Nicholas Ashford Johannesburg, Jan 5
It was a most unusual beginning to a school term for South Africa's black pupils. At 8 am, the time when classes were supposed to begin, Soweto's Orlando high school was empty. For the principal, Mr Wilkie Kambule, totally deserted.

"I think the students will start arriving later in the morning," said Mr Kambule, his customary optimism apparently unaffected by a short, sharp spell in police detention last week. "But they got into the habit during the disturbances of leaving school late and not turning up until they had checked there were no police on the premises."

Sure enough, 10 minutes later a couple of teachers arrived and they were followed by two girls who went quietly to one of the classrooms and sat waiting for something to happen. Soon others began to arrive, some singly or in pairs, others in large groups.

By 9.30 am, about 60 of the school's 900 pupils had arrived and Mr Kambule decided it was time for school to begin. A lone teacher, a handbell walked round the school buildings, many of them severely damaged during the disturbances, and the pupils gathered in one of the classrooms for home-cleaning and an address by Mr Kambule.

At Morris Isaacson school, where the student revolt on the Afrikaans language issue first began, the attendance was somewhat better. By 10.30 am, the principal, Mr Lekgvan Mathabathe, who was held in detention for four months last year, estimated that about one-quarter of his 800 pupils had

arrived. He set them to work clearing up the rubble and broken glass from damaged school buildings.

"I think many students are adopting a wait-and-see attitude," he said. "But so long as the police are not interfering with the school, I think there will be a better attendance tomorrow and things should be near normal by next week."

However, he did not know how many of his pupils were among those who had fled South Africa to neighbouring black states last year and would not be returning to their classes.

In Soweto, the police stayed away from schools. Yesterday the township's police chief, Brigadier Jan Visser, gave an assurance that the police would not interfere when the schools returned today. However, they were clearly taking no chances and the occasional patrol car could be seen moving discreetly round the streets.

While outside the Isaacson a black plainclothes man loitered against a telephone post as he kept the school under observation.

Today's reopening of schools in South Africa's black townships follows months of enforced closure caused by last year's riots. The term has started earlier than usual in order to allow pupils to prepare for last year's examinations, which were boycotted in protest over the number of deaths in the riots and the detention of hundreds of students by the police.

The beginning of the term is being watched closely by the South African authorities. They believe that a significant turning point during the next few days could herald a return to normality.

On today's showing there is reason for optimism that school attendance will soon be back nearly to normal. After a slow and apprehensive start, attendance at Soweto high schools today was estimated by The World newspaper to have averaged at least 20 per cent, while it was considerably higher in primary schools. There was also a satisfactory response in Cape Town's three African townships despite recent unrest there.

It was clear from conversations I had with students in Soweto that a statement issued by the influential Soweto Students Representative Council earlier this week urging them to go back to school was largely responsible for their return.

The student body, which played a key role in last year's anti-Apartheid language protests, recommended this course of action even though some students still remain in detention and its demand for the abolition of the Bantu (African) education system has not been met. Teachers and parent organizations had also urged a return to school.

The students did not, however, seem impressed by the measures announced last week by the Minister of Bantu Education, Mr M. C. Botha, aimed at improving black schooling, despite his commitment to eventual free and compulsory education for blacks.

"We want a complete scrapping of the Bantu education system," said one Orlando high school student who had spent a month in detention last year. "We don't just want free text books, we want the same educational standards as there are for whites."

Civil rights leader questioned in Moscow

Moscow, Jan 5.—The leader of a dissident group set up to monitor Soviet observance of the Helsinki agreement was seized on the street by plainclothes police today and questioned for seven hours before being released.

Dr Yuri Orlov was bundled into a car as he was on his way to a press conference in a private flat where he planned to tell Western journalists about the Helsinki agreement and the police searches yesterday of his apartment and those of four other dissidents.

After his interrogation at the public prosecutor's office, Dr Orlov telephoned correspondents to say investigators had told him a criminal case had been started as a result of documents found in the searches.

The charge was one of spreading deliberate fabrications slandering the Soviet system. The fabrications were alleged to be contained in several hundred documents on the work of the Helsinki monitoring group which police confiscated.

He said that investigators had not specified who the accused were, but told him he was a witness in the case.

Dr Orlov, who formerly worked as a physicist, had to defy a summons to report for questioning at the prosecutor's office. He said he had been told to return to the office tomorrow.

He said he had responded to all questions, which concerned documents and other items found in his flat, by specifying how in his view each question violated the letter of Helsinki.

SPORT

Cricket

England on the verge of victory as India's plan badly misfires

From John Woodcock Cricket Correspondent Calcutta, Jan 5

England made sure of winning the second Test match here today as sure as can be anywhere. After gaining a first innings lead of 166, they took seven wickets in the second innings to reach 316. To avoid their fourth successive defeat by an innings at Visakhapatnam, India's last three wickets need to muster another 21 runs tomorrow.

Not surprisingly there were times today when they looked a demoralised side. Gavaskar and Sharma fought for a while; there were a few runs from Gavaskar and Patil has resisted so far for two hours and three-quarters. In the last 50 minutes he and Prasanna added 48 runs in a way that made a nonsense of what had gone before. But that was the extent of it. The pitch was neither worse nor better than in England's innings of 321. The ball turned, the odd one lifted steeply; the occasional run kept low; a few runs were made, but not enough to make a difference. Rather than that, five wickets fell in an hour this afternoon, two to Greig, two to Willis and one to Underwood. Thereafter it was a matter of whether England would win or lose. Willis was brilliant, first day when the pitch was still intact. Had they batted decently then it would have been another match they have been hoist instead with their own petard. England have bowled and batted better on a pitch which India prepared for themselves.

India began their second innings 35 minutes before lunch. To start with the breaks were India's. The ball kept flashing just out of reach of the slips, of which there were three, when in the last over of the morning, which was Greig's first, Gavaskar went down the wicket and drove him to mid-off. Amis dropped the simple catch—Amis from the press box that is, if not against the background of laughing and shouting, but certainly the ground has been completely full, with 70,000 people seated in the sun.

The collapse set in half-an-hour into the afternoon when Gavaskar, pushing out at Greig, was given out, caught at short leg off his

and pad. If the look which Gavaskar gave Brearley, fielding at silly point, meant what I thought it did, Gavaskar may have been misled. In the next over Gavaskar played out, off the bottom of the bat, to Underwood, and this was the first ball of Underwood's sixth over and he had yet to concede a run. In Greig's next over, but one off his toes but straight to mid-off where Lever held a good low catch, merrily a backward scum as he did so.

Sharma looked capable of survival until he was caught at wicket-keeping, when he had just driven twice for four. Sharma's may be one of the heads to fall when the Indian selectors announce their side for the third Test match starting in Madras at the end of next week. There is a lot of talk about the Indian Engineer from England, such is seemingly the shortage of adequate replacements.

Willis had come on to allow Underwood to change ends—the only break Underwood had been the penultimate over of the morning and the last of the day. With things going so well, Greig gave himself only one spell of 10 overs, to save his spinning finger for another day. Enough of a breeze had blown up by the time Sharma was out for six of the England side to be in short-sleeved sweaters. In the outfield Barlow was being given more of a chance than Randall to show his pace. He was in brilliant form. Knott's diving leg-side catch, which dismissed Solkar in the third over of this spell, Willis was brilliant too. By now India were 70 for five with disenchantment in the crowd.

Madan Lal stayed for almost an hour with Patel, Brearley, who has the liking for first slip at the moment when the faster men are bowling, eventually caught him. In the same over Old produced one that was altogether too good for Kirmann, as it might have been for a much better player. Prasanna then batted like a man who, having bowled 57.4 overs, knew that wickets were not as easy as all this to come by or the drive so impossibly difficult. With Patel playing more strokes in the closing overs, with more certainty than anyone else in the match, India lived until tomorrow. By then the chances of rain are entirely discounted.

England's first innings had lasted for another 75 minutes this morning. Of their last four

wickets Bedi took two more, which leaves him needing only one to become the twelfth bowler to take 200 Test wickets. The first three wickets to fall all went to balls that turned; two to the mid-wicket boundary by Madan Lal off a towering hit by Old. Not long before, Old, playing the same stroke, had hit Prasanna for six. To reach his hundred Greig had driven Chandrasekhar through the covers for four, the stroke which after batting all day on Monday he had said the pitch precluded.

The last six runs which Greig had needed for his hundred were the day he took him only three balls to make. He was out soon afterwards, playing back to a turning off break. This was his eighth hundred for England and much the longest of them. Has anyone ever taken longer, I wonder, to reach a hundred for England than six hours 35 minutes, which was Greig's time? Peter Richardson was not far short of it at Johannesburg in 1955-57. Trevor Bailey took 43 minutes longer to make only 68 on one ill-starred occasion in Brisbane. Greig's innings, it seems like Richardson's, is to have a happier sequel than Greig's did.

INDIA: First Innings, 155 (R. G. D. Willis 4-77)

Second Innings
S. M. Gavaskar, b Underwood, 18
S. D. Solkar, b Willis, 10
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ENGLAND: First Innings
D. P. Amis, c Kirmann, b Madan Lal, 38
C. D. Barlow, c Kirmann, b Madan Lal, 38
J. M. Brearley, c Solkar, b Bedi, 27
D. W. P. Llewellyn, b Prasanna, 27
A. V. Girdle, b Prasanna, 103
S. D. Solkar, b Willis, 10
S. D. Solkar, b Willis, 10
S. D. Solkar, b Willis, 10
S. D. Solkar, b Willis, 10
S. D. Solkar, b Willis, 10

ENGLAND: Second Innings
D. P. Amis, c Kirmann, b Madan Lal, 38
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S. D. Solkar, b Willis, 10
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INDIA: Second Innings
S. M. Gavaskar, b Underwood, 18
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S. D. Solkar, b Willis, 10

Rabin eulogy fails to head off calls for Ofer inquiry

From Our Correspondent Tel Aviv, Jan 5

As Mr Abraham Ofer, the Minister of Housing, was buried with state honours here this afternoon, a political argument developed over whether an investigation into alleged embezzlement involving a building company he once headed should be pursued.

Before shooting himself on a beach here on Monday Mr Ofer left a note saying he was completely innocent but was driven to despair by slanderous accusations. Political associates said he was broken after a meeting on Sunday with Mr Rabin, the Prime Minister, who did not give him the backing hoped for.

But, speaking over the tier in the lobby of City Hall this afternoon, Mr Rabin said his last words on Sunday morning to Mr Ofer were "Abraham, I, Yitzhak Rabin, believe you are innocent."

Mr Rabin quoted protestations of innocence from the suicide note and said that these sincere words "in the moment of supreme reckoning" challenged those he held responsible for slandering him. The tragedy underlined the need for

caution in talking and writing so as not to prejudice anyone without a trial, the Prime Minister said.

But Mr Ehud Olmert, a Likud opposition MP alleged that the ruling establishment was crying "wichtuach" in order to deter an investigation. Pro-Government newspapers this morning had said that legal experts believed that last year's examinations, which were boycotted in protest over the number of deaths in the riots and the detention of hundreds of students by the police.

"The problem is not Ofer," he said. "If indeed offences were committed, it is not clear who was the only person involved."

Meanwhile, the Knesset today voted to dissolve itself and to hold parliamentary elections on May 17. Mr Rabin, who yesterday was given 21 days by President Katzir to try to form another government in place of the three-party coalition that fell last month, will not now be required to make the effort.

He will continue to head his caretaker administration until a new government gets a parliamentary majority after the May elections.

Russia announces record grain harvest for 1976

Moscow, Jan 5.—The Soviet Union had a record grain harvest of 223,800,000 tonnes for 1976, Mr Valentin Mesyats, the Agriculture Minister, said here today. This was 1,300,000 tonnes higher than the previous record in 1973.

The bumper harvest compares with a crop of 140 million tonnes in 1975, the worst record for a decade, which led to food shortages throughout the country.

Asked about grain imports, Mr Mesyats said Moscow would

adhere to its agreement to buy between six and eight million tonnes of American grain annually between 1976 and 1980.

Mr Mesyats also announced that the Soviet Union had harvested 85 million tonnes, and the cotton crop 8,300,000 tonnes. Beet production was below the target of 88 million tonnes and more than two million tonnes short of the 1973 record. But the cotton crop was higher than the target and only about 100,000 tonnes below the 1974 record.—Reuter.

Business News, page 15

In brief

Moscow adjusts many prices

Moscow, Jan 5.—The Soviet Government has announced price adjustments to a wide range of goods and services. The state prices committee announced that 10 items would cost from 5 to 25 per cent less from today, including stockings, women's shoes, refrigerators, record players, radios and some television sets. Among the items subjected to price increases will be buses, taxis, some books, air tickets and taxi fares. The cost of basic goods will not change.

Strikes crumble

Columbo, Jan 5.—Postal and telegraph workers and busmen in Sri Lanka called off threatened strikes after the Government issued orders under which all strikers would have lost their jobs.

Delhi jail protest

Delhi, Jan 5.—Miss Marie Andre Leclerc, aged 31, a Canadian in jail here since 1974 who is due to face charges alleging implication in the murder of several foreign tourists, has gone on hunger strike to protest about prison conditions.

Beating the jams

Lagos, Jan 5.—The Nigerian Government will ban half the capital's cars from main roads in an effort to prevent traffic jams during the coming Second World Black and African Festival of Arts and Culture.

Ethiopia-Sudan tension

Addis Ababa, Jan 5.—Ethiopian and Sudanese have recalled their ambassadors from each other's capitals for consultations on strained relations between the two countries, informed sources said.

Family split

Brisbane, Jan 5.—William Renton, a convicted murderer, has asked if he can serve his life sentence in a different jail from his son, Bruce, who is also a convicted murderer.

1,200 election arrests

Tokyo, Jan 5.—More than 1,200 people, most of them accused of being involved in the election campaign, have been arrested in Japan for offences connected with last month's general election.

Pakistan ban on eight opposition MPs

From Our Correspondent Rawalpindi, Jan 5

Eight opposition politicians in Pakistan, including Mr Abdul Wali Khan, leader of the opposition, will be barred from Parliament under an amendment to the political parties Act.

The government measure provides for the disqualification of any member of the Senate and the central and provincial assemblies if that person was holding a party office at the time their organization was banned by court.

Mr Abdul Wali Khan's National Awami Party was banned in 1975 by the Government for acting against the State.

Mr Bhutto, the Pakistan Prime Minister, announced tonight that in future income derived from agriculture would be subject to income tax. But small landowners with 25 acres or less will be exempted.

Mr Kim, who had been on trial in the Seoul district court for nine months, is already serving a life sentence for alleged involvement in a plot to overthrow the regime of President Park.

The poet's vitriolic satirical works have a wide clandestine readership in South Korea, but his latest sentence results from a newspaper article and notes prepared for two weeks in prison. The judge ruled that he was encouraging North Korea.

Mr Kim was the subject of an article in The Times Prisoner of Conscience series on April 13.

Tribesmen swell Polisario ranks

From Paul Martin Tindout, Algerian Sahara Jan 5

Hidden in the red sand wilderness that rolls from here to three shifting desert battlefronts, some 3,000 Saharan tribesmen are undergoing training in guerrilla warfare.

They will soon swell the ranks of Polisario—the desert guerrillas fighting Morocco and Mauritania—for a vital campaign in their struggle to reverse the carve-up of the former Spanish territory.

The military operations around the Polisario bases that dot the south-western corner of the Algerian Sahara came after a long and hard winter for the guerrilla army. King Hassan's refurbished armed forces have been on the offensive in the most determined attempt so far to secure the vast areas of the Sahara acquired by Morocco and Mauritania a year ago.

The task set the 30,000 troops committed by Morocco and the smaller Mauritania force was to destroy the hidden desert enemy and secure the map-line frontiers. However, with the guerrilla bands, navigating the hinterland by desert tracks, land features or the stars, are still able to strike—sometimes deeply—behind the lines of the armies they face.

Diary secrets raised at singer's trial

Aspen, Colorado, Jan 5.—The 225-page diary of the French singer Claudine Longet, found in the house where her ski champion lover was shot dead, was referred to by prosecuting woman juror at Miss Longet's trial on a charge of manslaughter today.

The diary, found in Mr Vladimir Sabich's bedroom, has been ruled out as evidence because it was obtained with an illegal search warrant.

But Mrs Ellen Grenko, called for jury service, said she would not be able to help wondering what was in the diary. "That bothers me terribly," she said. Judge George Lohr excused her from serving on the jury.

Miss Longet, aged 35, former wife of Andy Williams, the singer, is charged with the reckless but unintentional shooting of Mr Sabich at the house they shared in this Colorado mountain resort last March.

The first three prospective jurors were excused today because they said they had already made up their minds about Miss Longet's guilt or innocence.—Reuter.

Fugitive journalist

Gaborone, Jan 5.—Mr Eric Abraham, aged 22, a South African journalist, who was declared a banned person and placed under house arrest in Cape Town last November, arrived here after escaping across the Botswana border. He said he wanted to come to Britain.

Mr Abraham, who was arrested in 1975 by the South African police, was charged with espionage and sentenced to 10 years in prison. He was released on bail in 1976 but failed to appear for trial.

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In the coming months, Polisario strategy will be directed against Mauritania, for long the easier target for the guerrillas. Through their strikes so far they have proved Mauritania's vulnerability.

The object of the offensive will not be to overwhelm Mauritania militarily, one Polisario strategist explained.

But as the Mauritians are shown incapable of policing their own territory and thus endangering the Rabat-Nouakchott Hegemony over the Sahara, the King will be only too willing to act, the strategist said.

The King has shown himself to be an eager gambler: in the months to come we will see the odds.

Algeria defence bill: Algeria has announced an increase of nearly 25 per cent in its defence spending, believed to reflect tensions in the neighbouring Sahara. In the national budget, defence spending will jump by 24.2 per cent to 1.6 billion dinars (about £246m)—Reuter.



Sharma caught by Knott; Willis, the bowler, and Brearley (slip) react jubilantly.

Lillee too much for Pakistanis

Melbourne, Jan 5.—Pakistan's batsmen, losing six wickets for 42 runs in an exciting period near the end of the first innings, handed the second Test match to Australia here today. With only themselves to blame for their collapse, the Pakistanis played poor shots to accurate, but not hostile Australian bowling. Pakistan finished the day with 128 for six in their second innings, seeking a total of 500 for victory. The match ends today.

Every Australian bowler used to at least one over. The first over of the first innings was a 10-run over, with the first two wickets falling so far to mine victory. The first three wickets were taken in the first over.

Australia resumed their second innings this morning at 122 for one. McCosker, who went on to complete his century, was joined by Ian Davis, who made a simple run out. The first wicket fell in the first over.

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Tennis

Rosewall is finding five sets too tough

Melbourne, Jan 5.—The four leading seeds headed the advance round of the Australian open tennis championships at Kooyung today with the No. 4, the veteran Ken Rosewall, leading the line. Rosewall, aged 42, the sentimental favourite here, needed close to an hour to beat Martin Riesen, the United States, by 6-4, 7-6, 7-5, 3-6, 6-4.

He said he thought it was the first five-set match he had played since Wimbledon in 1974. "I'm finding it too tough," he said. "I was very tired when I got into the match, and I think Marty should be the one here doing the talking. Rosewall's main opponent will be the defending champion, Mark Edmondson, who beat him a year ago. Today Edmondson showed that he is pulling his game together in good time as he dispatched the tall, powerful Englishman, Richard Lewis, by 6-1, 6-3, 6-2.

Lewis, aged 22, from Middlesex, scored the best win of his career yesterday when he accounted for the tough seed Tom Gorman, the United States, by 6-4, 6-3, 6-1. His service and fine first volleying overwhelmed the American. He also topped the ground strokes, which he used to advantage to pass Gorman, who attacked the blond Englishman's second serve.

Lewis will take home at least about £1,400 from the event, in the tennis world's money. He is coming to Australia as no English team had come.

The top-seeded Guillermo Vilas, of Argentina, breezed through to the final eight with a 7-6, 6-2, 6-3 triumph over the American, Charles Pasarell, and he will next meet Roscoe Tanner, the second seed, in the quarter-finals.

Case, the eleventh seed, scored the big upset on today's programme by eliminating the fifth-seeded American, Richard Stockton, by 6-4, 4-6, 6-7, 7-5, 6-2.

Stockton was the beaten finalist in the New South Wales open last week when he lost to Tony Roche, of Australia, in the final. Roche was also knocked out here today, losing 6-2, 6-1, 6-2, 6-1 to the hard-driving American, Roscoe Tanner, the second seed.

WOMEN'S SINGLES: Third round: K. Rosewall (AUS) beat A. Pasarell (USA) 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; M. Edmondson (AUS) beat R. Lewis (ENG) 6-1, 6-3, 6-2; G. Vilas (ARG) beat C. Pasarell (USA) 7-6, 6-2, 6

OR DIRECT FROM LITTON, LONDON, ENGL

Straight between the eyes

Michael Ratcliffe



Jeremy Lewis

Louis Heren

Paperbacks of the Month in the Saturday Review this week will include Stewart Conn on the novels of Neil Gaiman: J. C. Trewin on Ghost Stories: H. R. F. Keating on John Franklin Bardin: John Harriott on three books by Ivan Illich.

Flailing the boredom and futility of suburban life is hardly virgin territory, though the knife is given an additional twist by reminders that the Tasmanian Aborigines were wiped out to clear the way for a paradise of garden gnomes and plug-in electric lawnmowers: what makes *Blue Skies* a joy to read is the energy and colour of the

Jeremy Lewis

Jan Stephens

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Prudence Glynn

Fashion



Norman Hartnell's sketches for two of his creations. On the left, a black wedding dress of lace over satin. On the right, the Queen's Paris Opera dress

Photograph by Warren Harrison

Hartnell: The Norman conquest

"Had I the heavens' embroidered cloths, Enwrought with golden and silver light, The blue and the dim and the dark cloths Of night and light and the half light, I would spread the cloths under your feet."

So wrote Yeats. For night, read knight. At long last the designer whose popular fame resides in the coruscating spangles with which he has decked our native royal deities for nearly half a century has been honoured with the KCVO. Only the American Norman Norrell could march sequins with Hartnell, though Rose Kennedy, when her husband was American Ambassador to London, recalls an occasion when the beads on her dress—it was of turquoise satin, but she does not tell us who by—became enmeshed with those on the pink satin gown of her Majesty Queen Elizabeth, now the Queen Mother, who was doubtless kissed out by the devoted Norman.

If you are going to be pre-empted on a long-planned piece about a particular person I can think of no nicer way to lose one's journalistic initiative than by the subject's being recognized by the state, especially when that recognition has been an area of campaign, indeed nagging, in column and conversation. It is no secret that I dearly wanted Norman Hartnell to be knighted, not only because he is a brilliantly gifted man whose career as a designer has been both uniquely straightforward and yet warped but also because I so passionately want the English to admit that they can do fashion on a world-beating level. After all, we have the most expensive and elaborate free education system for designers in the world, yet all too often I feel that, as a nation, we are only conscious of the audible sound, visually blind, and are positively embarrassed by elegance which is not an essential of life, even if some of us believe beauty and colour are essentials to the spirit. We honour pop stars, composers, actors, lots of whom I find dreary in the extreme, and neglect so many who enhance our environment, and in environment I include fashion. Small wonder that so many of our taxpayer-trained talents find greater sympathy abroad.

So I had planned some weeks back to make Norman Hartnell the subject of today's page. First, because, in case you could possibly have forgotten, this is Silver Jubilee Year, and in my province that can only be kicked off with the greatest of the royal designers. Second, because the advent of the Jubilee provided a once-for-all peg to examine the work of a most unusual man, who has achieved, I think, the most difficult and at the same time the only true pinnacle of the creative artist. Superlative in one medium, he has put aside the temptation to find that medium limited and to diversify—his skills, possibly well, possibly not, and to concentrate on bringing to that medium, in which he is superlative, a new dimension. The analogy is surely the skater John Curry.

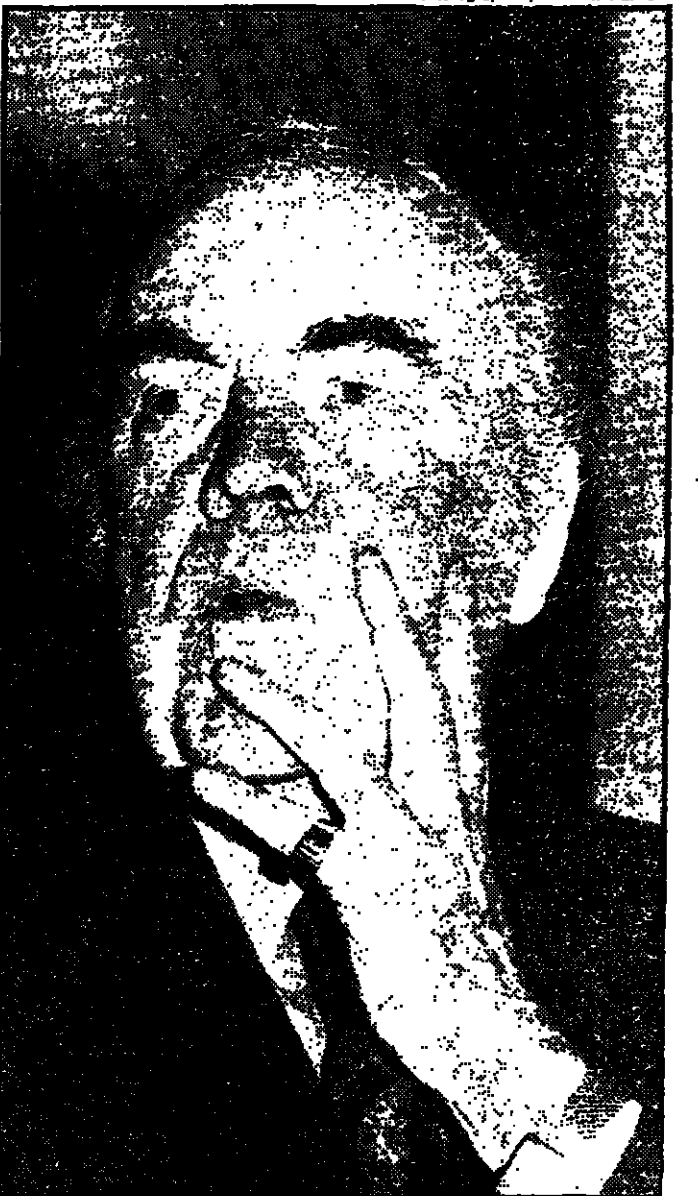
Norman Hartnell was born in 1901 and discovered as a designer by Corisande, Miss Minnie Hogg, correspondent of the *Evening Standard*, who in 1922 happened to see a Cambridge Footlights production and to be inspired by the efforts of the man who had done the costumes. Hartnell was the first English designer to win damages against a pirate, in his

case the famous Lucile, Lady Duff-Gordon, sister of Eleanor Glyn, patron of Molyneux, who won a newspaper competition offering a place in her diminishing salon. He made Barbara Cartland's first wedding dress—long, rulle frills, when short sharp beads were all the thing—and her book *The Isthmus Years* is filled with recollections of his charm and generosity.

Charles Creed, Worth, Molyneux, Redfern were all English names famous in Paris when Norman Hartnell showed his first collection there in 1928. Afterwards, the great American designer Mainbocher, who has just died (his real name was Main Bocher, but it was the era of the run-together, like Louisboulanger) told him: "I have never seen so many incredibly beautiful dresses so incredibly badly made."

But great things beckoned. The young Hartnell got the job of designing the wedding dress for Lady Alice Montagu-Douglas-Scott when she married the Duke of Gloucester, and dressed the bridesmaids, who included Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret Rose. In 1937 he provided the dresses for the Maids of Honour at the Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth, but not, as is sometimes stated, the Queen's robe, which was done by Madame Handley-Seymour, and the sketch of which by Irene Segalla some readers may remember from this page in the past. From then on the story is familiar; the Winterhalter inspired crinolines, the white outfits for the Queen's state visit to Paris when she was in mourning, the war service with ideas for utility clothes, the total assimilation into royal style with all it demanded and all it implies for a creative mind which should always be moving on.

Norman Hartnell himself says that his career has had three phases. To begin with, he was famous for ingenué, pretty dresses for innocent young girls. Then he discovered his love for the stage and began to dress very sexy, very sophisticated women who inspired him and taught him another tack in design. Then all his private clients wanted to look sexy, too. Hartnell was the Jacques Fath, you could say. Then Royalty struck, the briefs were inordinate, lengths predetermined, colours specified, construction geared to what had got to be pinned to what. It made me laugh to read that some peeresses had found herself wearing what she thought was the same dress as the Queen at the recent opening of Parliament, because I happen to know that the Queen, sensible as always, never wears a new dress for an occasion on which heavy, cumbersome robes which pull at the shoulders of the dress and, anyway, hide 90 per cent of it, are also on the ensemble, quite apart, of course, from the fact that no-one ever has a dress exactly like the Queen.



Sir Norman Hartnell

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Portraits of the men who will make up the new EEC Commission in Brussels

Decision day for the 12 members of the Jenkins team

Mr François-Xavier Ortoli, President of the European Commission for the past four years, is set to be succeeded by Mr M. Orlowski, a Frenchman, by staying on as one of the five vice-presidents of the new Commission.

During his presidency, he has earned a reputation as a shrewd, competent but somewhat colourless technocrat with a formidable grasp of the whole range of the Community's affairs. But this dedicated image conceals a much warmer private personality.

He was never at ease with the press and seldom made public appearances as president, and when he did so was in the habit of delivering lengthy discourses on high-minded European themes almost uncannily resistant to quotation.

As a former Gaullist Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance (1968-69), M. Orlowski was born in 1925, has a strong claim to the Commission's equivalent portfolio. He believes passionately that it is important for the EEC not to lose sight of the goals of economic and monetary union.

Mr Claude Cheysson, as the second French member of the new Commission, M. Cheysson will be hoping to consolidate his reputation as one of the most effective operators of the outgoing body.

He made his name as the architect of the Lomé Convention, signed in February, 1975, with 46 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, the Convention is widely regarded as a genuine innovation in relations between industrialized and developing countries.

Finding an equally challenging job for M. Cheysson in the new Commission will not be easy, since looking after the Lomé Convention itself is now little more than a managerial function.

No sufferer from false modesty, M. Cheysson can be a prickly customer. He is a socialist, and has not been afraid to make enemies, falling out with the Quai d'Orsay in the fifties over his support for independence for Algeria.

He was born in 1920 and is a small, dapper figure, who enjoys parading his command of carefully modulated English at Brussels press conferences.

Mr Wilhelm Haferkamp, like their French colleagues, the two new German Commissioners are simply old Commissioners reappointed for another four years.

Herr Wilhelm Haferkamp's re-nomination as a vice-

president is thought to be largely due to the backing of the Confederation of German Trade Unions on whose federal executive he sat immediately before moving to Brussels in 1967.

Putting it at its kindest, his conduct of the Commission's important economic and monetary affairs department over the past four years can only be described as uninspiring. The impression has been of someone out of his depth.

Mr Jenkins's badly mis-handled, but unfortunately well publicized, attempts to persuade the Helms to check back to nominate a replacement will hardly make for the smoothest of working relationships.

Born in 1923, Herr Haferkamp was wounded in the last war, studied economics at Cologne University immediately after it, and moved exclusively in trade union circles before his translation to Brussels.

Mr Guido Brunner, the second German Commissioner, is equally lacking in charisma, though he is generally reckoned to be able and to have made the best of a particularly thankless portfolio during his time in Brussels.

Blame for the halting progress of the EEC's scientific research policy—epitomized by the stalemate among the Nine over the site of the joint European Torus thermonuclear fusion project—can hardly be laid at his door.

As the choice of the Free Democrat wing of the West German Coalition, Dr Brunner is close to Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister. He is understood to covet the Commission's external affairs portfolio vacated by Sir Christopher Jenkins, which may now be subdivided.

Technically he would be well qualified for the job, having held a series of diplomatic posts before coming to Brussels in 1974 to replace Dr Ralf Dahrendorf. But the lack of presence and political clout are a handicap.

He was born in 1930 in Madrid, and studied law at the universities of Madrid, Munich and Heidelberg.

Mr Antonio Giliotti, among the more interesting newcomers to the Commission is Signor Antonio Giliotti, one of the two new Italian members. He joined the Communist Party after the war, but became active in the Italian resistance, becoming Under-Secretary at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs

At three o'clock this afternoon Mr Roy Jenkins and the 12 other new European Commissioners will retire into Papal conclave on the 13th floor of the Berlaymont building in Brussels. Some—possibly many—hours later the new President is expected to emerge with a list of the jobs which have been allocated.

Although *primus inter pares*, Mr Jenkins ultimately has no greater say than any of his colleagues in this

delicate exercise since the allocation of each portfolio is finally decided by a majority vote of the 13-man body. His role will be one of persuasion and attempting to guide the bargaining in the direction he desires.

Once the job share-out is over, there is still a final formality to be completed. Next Tuesday Mr Jenkins and the rest of his team will take an oath before the European Court of Justice in Luxembourg, promising

"Neither to seek nor to take instruction from any government or body".

The oath symbolizes the supposed transmutation of national politicians temporarily seconded to Brussels into "Europeans", impartial and implacable guardians of the Rome Treaty, immune to special pleading from home capitals. Clothed in this new aura, the Commissioners then present themselves to the European Parliament.



The Commissioners, from the left: Ortoli, Haferkamp, Davignon, Jenkins, Natali, Tugendhat, Vredeling, Vouel, Gundelach, Giliotti, Brunner, Cheysson, Burke.

in the first Republican Government. He resigned from the Communist Party in 1957 after the Soviet invasion of Hungary.

Since then, Signor Giliotti has been prominent in the Socialist Party and was Minister for the Budget and Economic Planning in the 1964, 1970-72 and 1973-74 centre-left governments.

In 1974 he represented Italy at the fourth special session of the United Nations General Assembly and in the same year was President of the Council of Ministers of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

He is the author of books on European communism and socialism and gave a series of

lectures on political themes in Britain in 1973 and 1975. He was born in 1915 and graduated in law.

Mr Lorenzo Natali, a member of the Christian Democrat Party, Signor Lorenzo Natali has previous experience of the EEC as Italian Minister for Agriculture. As one of the vice-presidents of the new Commission, he will now be looking at the Community from a rather different perspective.

His other ministerial jobs have included spells as Minister for the Merchant Navy, for Tourism and Entertainment, and for Public Works. Born in Florence in 1922,

Signor Natali was a volunteer in the Italian Liberation Corps in 1944, was wounded in action and decorated for bravery. A lawyer by training, he has been returned to the Italian Parliament by the Abruzzi constituency for seven consecutive terms of office.

Mr Christopher Tugendhat, a little-known quantity in Brussels, Mr Christopher Tugendhat was a surprise choice for the second British Commissioner after Mr Jenkins and Mr Callaghan had turned down Mr John Davies, Mrs Thatcher's first candidate for the post. Now 39, the former Conser-

vative MP for the City of London and Westminster, South, is the youngest member of the new Commission. At the time of his nomination he was junior opposition spokesman on foreign affairs.

After education at Ampleforth and Cambridge, where he was President of the Union, he spent 10 years on the *Financial Times* as a leader and feature writer specializing in energy questions.

He has written two well received books—*Oil: The Biggest Business and The Multinationals*—both of which are relevant to the EEC, though it seems unlikely for political reasons that Mr Tugendhat will get the Commission's energy

portfolio. He has also published a pamphlet on the EEC and the Third World.

Viscount Etienne Davignon, only four years older than Mr Tugendhat, Belgium's new man on the Commission, Viscount Etienne Davignon is already a well-known figure on the European stage and beyond.

As Director-General of Political Affairs at the Belgian Foreign Ministry he made certain of at least one footnote in the history books by lending his name to the so-called Davignon Committee, which since 1969 has brought together senior foreign officials of the Nine to discuss political cooperation outside the strict framework of the Rome Treaty.

In 1974 he was made chairman of the International Energy Agency, the American-sponsored body set up after the quadrupling of oil prices in 1973 in an attempt to coordinate the energy policies of the industrialized countries. He is an urbane and debonair, with flawless English. Viscount Davignon is the son of a distinguished diplomat. He was born in Budapest, and graduated in law from Louvain University.

Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, Danish representation on the Commission remains unchanged with the reappointment of Mr Finn Olav Gundelach, 51, who becomes one of the five vice-presidents of the new body.

A career diplomat before coming to Brussels, he has spent most of the past four years nurturing the Community's customs union, an onerous and unglamorous task for which he got few thanks and little publicity.

But as a result of the illness of Sir Christopher Soames last year, he suddenly found himself thrust into the limelight, entrusted with the conduct of important trade negotiations with Japan and delicate discussions with the Icelanders over British fishing rights.

His blunt warning to the Japanese that they must take steps to redress their trade imbalance with the EEC or face the consequences caused something of a furor.

Mr Gundelach is regarded as being almost certain to get the agricultural portfolio formerly held by Mr Pierre Lardinois.

Mr Henk Vredeling, one of the liveliest wires in Mr Jenkins's team promises to suffer no such fate. The Dutch member of the Commission.

A controversial Defence Minister from 1973 until his

appointment to the Commission, he was often at odds with his equally outspoken compatriot, Dr Josef Luns, the Secretary-General of Nato.

Criticism from Nato headquarters of Dutch defence cuts once provoked Mr Vredeling to say that he would "like to kick Dr Luns's head between the goal posts".

A member of the Dutch Labour Party, Mr Vredeling 52, is an expert on agricultural questions and has an outside chance to get the farm portfolio, one of the Commission's key jobs.

Mr Richard Burke, Ireland's new man on the Commission, Mr Richard Burke, seems fated to spend his early months in Brussels living down the unlikely reputation which has preceded him from Dublin. An unfortunate manner which the press has found him stiff and unhelpful, and ultra-conservative social and political opinions, which place him on the clerical, right-wing of the Fine Gael, appear to account for this unhappy advance billing.

Mr Burke, 44, is understood to owe his Brussels job to his close association with Mr Liam Cosgrave, the Irish Prime Minister. Fine Gael chief whip from 1969 to 1972, he was Minister of Education at the time of his appointment to the Commission.

He was educated by the Christian Brothers, and subsequently trained as a lawyer. Mr Burke is remembered for having voted in 1974 against a Bill that would have legalized the sale of contraceptives to married couples.

Mr Raymond Vouel, virtually unknown outside the Luxembourg world of Luxembourg politics, Mr Raymond Vouel joined the Commission last year to replace the late Mr Albert Borschette. His few months in Brussels have done little to illuminate the obscurity whence he came.

He remains on the Jenkins Commission as the Luxembourg member. He has yet to give a press conference in Brussels, and has declined all requests for interviews. There are many people who do not even know what he looks like.

Curiously, he began his career as a journalist specialising in political affairs, then served as the director of a hospital and a town councillor in Esch before joining the Luxembourg Government in 1964 as a socialist.

Michael Hornsby

Bernard Levin

The simple truth about Mrs Gandhi and her path to dictatorship

Yesterday, I gave an account of the further substantial progress towards a dictatorship made by Mrs Indira Gandhi, Prime Minister of India, by the Bill (passed by the Indian Parliament, from which many Opposition leaders have been removed to indefinite detention without trial) to re-write the Indian Constitution. The Constitution (44th Amendment) Bill, which I have referred to as "Constitution 44", contains, as I recounted, provisions which would make the basic democratic rights of Indian citizens a nullity, give Mrs Gandhi powers to ban any kind of political activity, critical of her regime, enable her to enact repressive measures without even the formal sanction of Parliament, destroy the safeguard against dictatorship provided by the political independence of the President, and make permanent the Emergency laws and decrees instituted under the State of Emergency (including the censorship of the press and the imprisonment of political opponents).

Today, I want to give further details of the way in which the Legislation makes Mrs Gandhi's path to dictatorship easier, and in particular to describe the ways in which it removes or weakens the most important barriers that path, the independence and reserve powers of the judiciary.

To start with, the Legislation provides that the High Courts of the individual states will no

longer have power to examine the constitutionality of any Central law. (Central law means Federal law as opposed to the laws of the states. But this provision covers not only Acts of Parliament but all administrative rules, decrees and orders made by the Executive under any Statute.)

Next, the citizen's right to challenge decisions of State tribunals in the High Court has been removed; an individual can now only proceed direct to the Supreme Court. His right to do so is rigidly circumscribed in the Legislation, which limits the range of such petitions the Supreme Court can hear, but much worse than this is the fact that the proposed change means that such litigation (normally concerned with the citizen's desire to establish whether his rights have been infringed) is thus put beyond the financial resources of an individual, since the Supreme Court sits only in Delhi and its procedures are naturally more complex and demanding than those of the lower courts throughout the country. The deterrent effect, clearly intentional, of this provision is added an even worse threat: the Supreme Court, and the High Courts, are already years behind in their work. The Supreme Court can only become more so if cases are referred direct to its jurisdiction instead of being decided as now, in the lower courts. The only solution to the congestion would be the appointment

ment of more Supreme Court judges; it does not require much imagination to guess of what stripe the judges thus appointed will be.

The worst of it is that the Legislature, as I shall make clear, seriously limits the powers of the courts to scrutinize legislation to see whether it accords with the Constitution; but even within the restricted area in which this will still be possible, it is to be made much more difficult for Mrs Gandhi has decreed that from now on no High Court or Supreme Court ruling against the constitutionality of any law or other measure will be valid unless it is made by a majority of two-thirds of the judges on the bench deciding the case are of that opinion.

In any case, Mrs Gandhi's Legislation will reduce judicial review of law, hitherto as integral a part of the Indian Constitution as of the American, to a point at which it becomes virtually meaningless anyway. For from now on, no amendment to the Constitution may be challenged by anybody in any court, or any ground. Since, as I explained yesterday, the Legislation gives Mrs Gandhi effectively untrammelled power to alter the Constitution in future by decree, this means that if any provision of it should prove awkward in thwarting her aims or actions, or if judges, though restricted, still manage to defend important sections of it, the embarrassing items may be removed

The tyrannous provisions of what Mrs Gandhi is demanding are entirely unnecessary except to one who wants total power...



without difficulty and without any redress in law at all.

The reason for this particular provision is particularly interesting. One of the obstacles to Mrs Gandhi's personal rule has been the Supreme Court's judgment in the crucial case of Kesavanand Bharati. In this, the Court recognized that the elected Parliament's powers are, and should be, very wide indeed, but not entirely limitless: and the limit they established was a crucial one. They laid down that amendments which would damage or destroy the fundamental nature of the Constitution can be held invalid. That case, which was a matter of property, resulted not only in the establishment of the principle in its own right, but in the ruling that the right to property, guaranteed in the Constitution, is not absolute—is not, that is, part

of those fundamental tenets of the Constitution that cannot be taken away by amendment.

This ruling in itself effectively gives the lie to Mrs Gandhi's claim that tearing up the Constitution is necessary because essential economic measures are being blocked under it; the Bharati case made it clear that any economic reform can already be enacted under the present Constitution. (The Supreme Court has been accused, by Mrs Gandhi and her supporters, of blocking urgently needed legislation in the field of economic reform in the way that the Supreme Court of the United States, in the early days of Roosevelt's New Deal, prevented any encroachment on the property rights of the wealthy. In fact, examination of the Indian Supreme Court's record in this field shows that they have not; legislation on

such matters as land reform, the Privy Purses, and bank nationalization, has been upheld by the Supreme Court.) The truth is that the Bharati case stands in the way of no of economic reforms, but of Mrs Gandhi's attempt, in a previous measure purporting to amend the Constitution (but blocked by the Supreme Court), to put her election beyond challenge even if it had been achieved by corrupt practices, and also of her move (likewise stopped for the moment by judicial action) to give herself and her chief political cronies complete immunity from prosecution for criminal offences committed during their tenure of office or even before.

There are other provisions in the Legislation which are clearly designed to enhance the power of the Executive still further. Many matters, for instance, are to be withdrawn from the jurisdiction of the High Courts and ruled upon instead by Tribunals (much more easily controlled by Mrs Gandhi's regime); nor are these, by any means, only trivial matters which take up the courts' time unnecessarily and could well be dealt with by administrative bodies. They include questions of taxation, food procurement and distribution, industrial disputes, foreign exchange and elections. And one of the most sinister moves in the Legislation gives the Central Government the unlimited right to send troops into any of the States without the consent of the State

Government, to counter a threat to law and order. Under the present Constitution such action may be taken, but only if the offending or troubled State is violating the constitution, or unable to govern itself; it is now proposed that even when no breach of the Constitution is being committed, and no situation threatening the stability of the State exists, the Central Government may send troops and take over the State's administration, not subject to any independent review, of a threat to law and order.

Beside this massive deployment of the weapons of oppression, there is one further provision in the Legislation which may seem to represent only small-scale fire, and so indeed it does; but it is not the least significant in what it symbolizes. Under the present law, members of either the Central or a State legislature who have been found guilty of corrupt electoral practices are subject to disqualification from membership for specified periods. But under the Legislation, the Government (nominally the President, but in fact Mrs Gandhi) strips him of his entire electoral powers, and obliges him to act only as directed by the executive) has the absolute power to decide what period of disqualification, if any, corrupt MPs are to suffer. In Mrs Gandhi's move against democracy took place when, and because, she was herself convicted of such practices and liable to be disqualified from office under the law, the purposes of what she now proposes is not difficult to understand.

The 59 Clauses of the Constitution (44th Amendment) Bill contain, in other words, more than, in this column and yesterday's, I have been able to review. But all the provisions are directed to the same end; that is, the transformation of India from a gravely imperfect democracy into a dictatorship run by Mrs Indira Gandhi. If the Bill is passed (it has gone through the Central Parliament, and now awaits ratification by the States, which it seems certain to get) the Indian Constitution will be a dead letter, the safeguards against tyranny destroyed, the power given to Mrs Gandhi limitless. Her apologists argue that although the Legislation gives her the opportunity to become a complete dictator, she will not take it. The answer is twofold: first, she has already taken it, even under the present Constitution, a wide range of dictatorial powers, and committed a wide range of oppressive acts (many of them, such as the destruction of the freedom of the press, largely illegal). Secondly, most of the tyrannous provisions of what she is now demanding are entirely unnecessary except to one who wants total power and the ability to use it without check.

The truth is that Mrs Gandhi wants to be a dictator, and is going to be.

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The Times Diary

Forging the party line on women

The Communist Party of Great Britain is nothing if not democratic. Having decided upon a major review of its manifesto, *The British Road To Socialism*, which has remained substantially unaltered since the late Stalinist days of the early fifties, it is asking the various factions within the party to contribute to an up-to-date version. Women Communists have been getting their oar in this week by holding three long evenings of discussion on the role of feminism within socialism. Alan Hamilton reports:

The delay was generally accepted with good humour. Sarah Benton, a slim and wiry freelance journalist, opened the debate with a half-hour discourse on the division of labour. Feminism, she conceded, was a new concept in British Marxist thinking. "Leaders of socialist thought have too often been obsessed with sexual thought instead of concentrating on the real problems."

Miss Benton reckoned that the rise of feminism was in part a result of effective contraception, and in part the result of the demolition of motherhood and housework to the status of unskilled labour. Our grandmothers needed real skill to have babies and run a house; now it is all done for them by obstetricians and food manufacturers. The real villains of the sex war, she concluded, were the skilled working class, who guarded their privileges against the mass of unskilled workers, many of whom were women. Jenny Williams, a local Communist Party secretary and social worker, had a go at the

family unit, which she said capitalism had invented as "the biologically basic mode". A family woman with two teenage children, she made a telling point when she said that housewives were driven to tranquillizers and despair when they felt they failed to come up to the glossy stereotype portrayed in advertisements and other capitalist propaganda.

Speakers from the floor then weighed into the two speakers for describing rather than analysing the problems, and the air became thick with debate on the relative merits of various "isms", including feminism, naturalism and socialism, though not too many "hor" people in one-small-roomism. The debate was to continue for two more days. I hope the draftsman of King Street are the wiser at the end of it.

Insulting

The last time Winston Nushona and John Kani gave a performance of the highly acclaimed play, *Since Bama Is Dead*, they were arrested and spent 15 days in solitary confinement in a South African prison. They were not charged, but were warned that they might soon find themselves in court facing allegations of inciting racial hatred and using vulgar and insulting language. Their next performance

should be less troublesome. The play, already seen on the London stage and on British television, returns to the Royal Court theatre today for a six-week run. Nushona and Kani gave a press conference yesterday and reported that they received their passports to leave for Britain only 12 hours before their scheduled departure.

They will return home as soon as their run at the Royal Court is finished, but have no plans to test the authorities with another performance of the controversial work. They have plans for a new production, which they are wisely keeping quiet about for the time being.

Satanic

There was an appropriate whiff of historical romance, and some suitably satanic Black Velvet, at the celebration of Dennis Wheatley's eightieth birthday on Tuesday night. The author, a stunningly clad in a powder blue dinner jacket with white lapels, had hired Vintners' Hall for his 300 guests.

It was he told them, the only building of its type to have survived both the Great Fire of London and the bombs of the Second World War. On this very ground, he added, the first master of the Vintners had entertained five kings to dinner in one night. Wheatley was not quite so lush, though there were tiled folk about and a press release distributed by his publishers recalled that he had once been wine merchant to three Kings, 21 Princes and many millionaires.

It was because that business fell victim to the depression that Wheatley wrote his first novel. It reprinted seven times in seven weeks, and since then his yarns have sold over 40 million copies in 29 languages. Guests were treated to a full résumé of Wheatley's diverse achievements in a film shown three times during the evening. In its course Wheatley revealed that beside writing more than 50 books, inventing war games and planning victory in the Second World War, he had laid out stars and his bathroom with cut-out fish, collected 40,000 stamps, and 3,000 bottles of finest wines and a huge library of books.

Nice to see that venerable British traditions are being maintained in Oxfordshire. Reporting the cold snap, the Oxford Times has two local depts saying that "some of their gritters were temporarily out of action because of the freezing weather".

The bar is something of a bargain basement itself, the wine list having been chosen with an eye to economy rather than high reputation. The Sidi Larbi Moroccan red I chose was the cheapest drinkable table wine encountered during the



survey, at 25p a glass. It was thin, though, and served in appropriately chilled. Some 18 other wines offered by the glass range from 28p to "sparkling" at 42p.

any case). It had nothing of distinction among the claret, nor of age greater than 1972. Also lacking were soured and the usual wine bar standby, game pie. A restaurant section upstairs offered pork chops and mushrooms in wine sauce at £1.10, but I stayed below and chose pâté and salad (50p plus 30p for each portion of various salads, however small) in preference to a flabby and pale quiche lorraine.

Cheese was 50p, but the brie was a little underripe, the goat salami looked squashed and there were no English cheeses left. There was no vintage port except a late bottled Taylor's 1971. All right for a hurried snack, but not the place for a celebration if you do well at the sales. My bill was £2.77.

Next: Conclusions
I like a caricature that knows its own mind. Lady Morland writes to tell me that her husband, Sir Oscar, who used to be British ambassador in Tokyo, wrote the BBC complaining politely about their faulty pronunciation of Japanese names. He pointed out that it should be exactly like Italian, no stress on any syllable but a final *e*. The BBC replied that they had discussed this matter, but had decided that their own pronunciation was best. Ha!

PHS



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NOT TOO PETTY FOR A JURY

Trial by jury, to the British, is more than a procedural device for deciding whether a person accused of crime is guilty or not. It is deeply embedded in the national consciousness as a bulwark against tyranny, a safeguard against the state, and one of the distinguishing features of a free society. It has worked well in the past, and for the most part, continues to do so. It is therefore, not, as some would have it, a restricted device necessary for the fair and efficient functioning of the system of criminal justice.

The Criminal Law Bill, now before the House of Lords, includes provisions which would remove the right of electing trial by jury from defendants in specified categories of cases. The most controversial provision would make theft and similar offences involving amounts of less than £20 triable only in the magistrates' courts.

No one disputes that conviction for such "trivial" thefts may bring severe consequences for the convicted person (and his or her family): loss of standing and reputation in his own community, club, place of employment or social circle—a misfortune which is not confined to any one class or condition of person; or being dismissed from employment and having great difficulty in finding a decent alternative job. The James Committee, on whose recommendation that part of the Bill is based, took the view that the interests of society in having the pressures on the overburdened Crown Court eased, so that delays in awaiting trial, outweighed any possible adverse effects to individual defendants.

It has been questioned whether delays in the Crown Court are in fact so inordinate as to warrant such far-reaching measures. It has also been pointed out that the problem is mainly confined to London and the South-east and that it is precisely these areas that there are also substantial delays in cases coming to trial in the magistrates' courts. If that were right, the proposed change would be unnecessary in the provinces and would not have the desired effect in London.

It is difficult to assess exactly what effect the implementation of that part of the Bill would have in practice. The tentative estimate is that over 3,000 cases of "trivial" theft would be removed annually from the higher to lower courts, although

that does not tell us to what extent delays would be reduced. The trend, however, is for delays in the Crown Court to be increasing again after a period of relative stability. The standstill in the building and expansion programme for the courts, caused by the public expenditure cuts, is likely to confirm that trend for at least a few years.

The question therefore poses itself as a straightforward choice between securing less delay in awaiting trial for the generality of defendants at the possible expense of those who would be denied trial by jury, or retaining the existing procedure in the knowledge that it would make the administration of criminal justice slower, and possibly deny, by delaying, justice for some. Implicit in the argument is the belief that justice for the innocent defendant is more certain before a jury, or, to put it another way, that a wrongful conviction is more likely in a magistrates' court.

Magistrates, it is said, are prosecution minded; that they are too ready to accept uncritically evidence given by the police; and that they still suffer from the blinkers of their largely white middle-class membership. Juries are said to be more willing to disbelieve police witnesses and more likely to understand the evidence of, and be sympathetic to, young, working-class, or black defendants. The availability of any or any adequate legal representation is much more uncertain in magistrates' courts, whereas in the Crown Court a defendant pleading not guilty is virtually certain to get proper representation under legal aid.

A further reason for choosing trial by jury is that in the higher court the defence knows exactly what the prosecution case is. A source of constant complaint about magistrates' courts has been that the defence often has little idea of what evidence prosecution witnesses are likely to give. One recommendation of the James Committee, inexplicably not adopted by the Government, would have made it easier for the defence in magistrates' courts to obtain copies of the prosecution witnesses' statements at an early stage.

It is likely that in all but a very small proportion of cases the result would be the same whatever the forum of the trial. The fact is, however, that many people believe in, and wish to choose, jury trial, and their right

to do so should not be lightly removed. So far as "trivial" thefts are concerned, the case for removing the choice has not been made out. Although there are some examples in English law of offences involving dishonesty being triable only by magistrates (for instance, intentionally avoiding paying railway fares), in general such offences, which import consequences other than those directly imposed by the law, are thought to warrant the right to elect trial by jury. That is a sound principle and ought to continue to be followed.

Different considerations apply to drinking and driving offences, the other large category of cases (over 3,000) which the Bill would remove from the higher courts. There is little social stigma attached to being convicted of drunken driving (the more the pity, many would say), the penalties do not involve loss of liberty and, with the exception of a disqualification for someone whose livelihood depends on driving, the other consequences of conviction are likely to be minor. In these cases the limitation of trial by jury is justified.

The Bill has also come under criticism for removing that right in two other, numerically smaller, categories of cases, assaulting the police and importuning by male homosexuals. A high degree of moral obloquy accompanies conviction for the latter offence, and unpleasant extra-legal consequences are likely to follow. Defendants should therefore be entitled to the trial of their choice. In the case of assault against the police, a significant number of prosecutions are brought in which the defendants are black, and in view of the current state of tension between their community and the police, and of the feeling which exists in some circles that whatever the colour of the defendant magistrates are strongly predisposed to believe the police version, the right to trial by jury should stand.

By retaining the provisions in the Bill making drink-and-drive offences, criminal damage involving over £100, and some other minor categories triable only by magistrates, while abandoning those provisions doing the same for petty thefts, male importuning and assaulting the police, the Crown Court would still be relieved of nearly half the estimated reduction of 8,000 cases which the reform was expected to achieve.

The hereditary peerage

From Mr Humphry Berkeley
Sir, Surely the answer to Mr Charles Fletcher-Cooke (January 4) is that "the balance of the constitution" was altered by the Life Peerages Act which was introduced into Parliament and became law in 1958 by Mr Harold Macmillan's Conservative Government, when Mr Fletcher-Cooke was himself a Conservative member of Parliament.

A reading of the Parliamentary Debates makes it quite clear that it was the intention of Parliament to alter the composition of the House of Lords in two ways. There were to be Life Peers (apart from Law Lords, who were already Life Peers) who would be men or women. Thus in 1958, for the first time, women sat in the House of Lords.

Later, when the remunciation of Peerages came to be considered, the opportunity was taken to correct the anomalous situation which allowed Life Peers to sit in the House, a right denied to Hereditary Peers. Accordingly, and again by Statute, provision was made for the latter to sit in the House of Lords.

As to the Prime Minister, he is not compelled to recommend to Her Majesty the award of a particular title of honour, nor should he feel under any obligation to do so. Mr Attlee incurred no criticism, on constitutional grounds or on grounds of breach of hereditary principle, by refraining from recommending the creation of new Baronies (with the exception of the Lord Mayor of London) from 1945 until 1951, when he was Prime Minister.

Mr Fletcher-Cooke attempts to draw a distinction between "appointed" Peers and "independent" Peers, the latter being hereditary. But if the present, or a future, Prime Minister were to recommend the creation of new hereditary Peers, these, too, would be "appointed". "Independent" Peers, that is to say, Peers who are not of first creation, remain because Mr Wilson's first Labour Government was unable to change the composition of the House of Lords by Statute, although it tried to do so.

Surely the real danger to the composition of the House of Lords and to the balance of the constitution resides in the unlimited right of Prime Ministers to recommend the creation of as many Peers as they wish, even hundreds at a time, if they so wish. On two occasions, in 1832 and once in 1910, the threat was made. On each occasion the monarch indicated that he would feel bound to accept the recommendations of his Prime Minister.

Yours faithfully,
HUMPHRY BERKELEY,
Three Pages Yard,
Chiswick, W4,
January 4.

From John Lee, MP for Birmingham, Handsworth (Labour)
Sir, Charles Fletcher Cooke's interesting letter (January 4) upon the change occasioned by the absence of hereditary peerages creates issues even wider constitutional issues than perhaps he realizes. Sooner or later the question has to be faced as to whether or not the ancient practice whereby hereditary peerages—invariably of senior rank—are conferred upon members of the Royal Family is still to continue. If it is, then, assuming no further hereditary creations in the House of Lords, the extraordinary situation will arise of being a gradual increase in the number of Dukes and Earls (as each generation of the Royal Family grows up), whilst the rest diminish with extinction. If, on the other hand, the practice of the past is not to continue, then profound change will have taken place in the character of the Monarchy; and that without any debate or legislation in Parliament.

This being Jubilee Year, I sought the other day to put down to Parliament a Question on the subject of Royal Peerages, only to be told by the officials of the House, no doubt quite correctly, that such questions were out of order.

I regard the hereditary right to legislate as being indefensible, but, in common with Charles Fletcher-Cooke, I am resolutely opposed to constitutional change occurring by stealth.

Yours, etc,
JOHN LEE,
House of Commons,
January 4.

Class hatred

From Mr Arthur Freeman
Sir, Dom Benet Innes argues (December 31) that incitement to class hatred should be illegal. It is a question of the subject of the common law of sedition makes illegal not only propaganda against the Sovereign and the Royal Family, against the Government and both Houses of Parliament, and against the administration of justice, not only incitement to alter the constitution of Church or State by unlawful means, not only incitement to discontent or disaffection in the population—but also incitement to "ill-will and hostility between different classes", to quote the standard textbook, Stephen's *Digest of the Criminal Law*.

It is true that the sedition law has not been used for a long time, but it is also true that it can be used against republicans, humanists, socialists, and anyone who is almost any dissidents whenever the authorities wish to do so. The trouble is that the cure would be worse than the disease, as usual when freedom of speech is suppressed.

Yours etc,
ARTHUR FREEMAN,
88a Whitechapel High Street, E1.

The year of the beaver

From Mr Kenneth Jordan
Sir, Jack Jones may have overlooked the fact that the beaver has an annoying habit of promoting log jams.

Yours faithfully,
KENNETH JORDAN,
Aquis House,
Gurney Slade,
Bath.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

You will be poorer this year

From Professor C. J. Constable

Sir, The importance of your leading article this morning (December 23) cannot be over emphasized. In the course of my work I talk to managers from many different companies. Almost without exception they feel they have been unfairly treated during the past two years.

Examples abound of the nonsense created by the squeeze on so called "top salaries" and punitive tax rates. One man, working for a company which exports over 70 per cent of its output, had recently appointed a national of another European country to work as his subordinate in that country at over twice his own salary. Another was seriously considering taking a job carrying less responsibility in his own company but based on the continent and paying three times the salary.

A research director now has a virtually flat salary structure amongst his senior staff with all earning £3,500 per year. The personnel director of a US based multinational operating throughout Europe has his whole senior management salary structure thrown out of gear by legislative restrictions in the UK. To him British salaries are ridiculous.

It is not of course just managerial salaries which are now so depressed compared with continental rates. I spent the 1975 academic year as a visiting professor in Switzerland.

The German economy

From Lord Kaldor

Sir, Derek Prag (December 30) asserts that all my criteria "measure welfare and well being and not the degree of socialism in West German economy". Welfare and well-being secured through social transfer expenditures are of the essence of "socialist" policies as ordinarily understood; and so is workers' participation (the Webb's "industrial democracy") as a means of countering the alienation of the workers under a system of giant enterprises. In both these respects Germany is far ahead of Britain in the kind of Socialism which British Labour movement has historically stood for—a far greater extent than the Continental Socialist parties.

It is nonsensical to suggest that there is any relevant difference between Britain and Germany in the public sector of expenditure, and so in expenditures. In both countries they are financed by compulsory social insurance contributions on employers and workers. But whereas in Britain, according to the latest estimate of the CSO (Economic Trends for November 1976), the rate of contributions expressed as a percentage of GNP at factor cost, amounts to 6.7 per cent (of which 3.7 per cent is paid by the employers) in Germany the figures are 13.5 per cent (of which 8.5 per cent is paid by the employers). Hence, the compulsory transfers from the productive to the unproductive sectors of the community resulting from the welfare state are twice as great in relation to GNP in Germany as in Britain—which means that, on the economic two-figures test, the German economy is twice as great as the British economy.

The same CSO publication also disposes of the myth that the burden of personal income tax is much greater in Britain than in Germany. Expressed as a percentage of GNP at factor cost the figures were practically identical in the two countries in 1974—the latest year for which figures are available—13.0 per cent as against 12.7 per cent though the figures in Germany are rounded up in the top marginal rates are considerably lower than in Britain.

Finally, it is equally a myth to suggest that workers' participation in industry was first introduced by the Christian Democrats (ie, Conservatives). It was originally imposed by the occupying powers (on the suggestion of the British Labour Government) as a compromise solution between handing back the enterprises to Messrs Krupp, Thyssen and Co (whom the Germans wanted) and turning them into State enterprises (which the British preferred). It was the unforeseen success of this experiment which led to its extension to other industries, first on a minority basis and now on a parity basis.

The complete absence of nationalized industries in Germany or in Sweden (despite an unimpaired Socialist Government for over 40 years in the latter country)

Making education work

From Professor E. Stones

Sir, Rhodes Boyson, whose article you printed on December 30, is running true to form. Maximum assertion and minimum evidence coupled with a simplistic appreciation of the educational issues involved make it impossible even to begin a dialogue. I hope, however, that you will at some time consider the possibility of admitting someone to your columns to attempt a somewhat more reasoned presentation of the issues involved.

In the meantime may I be permitted one Boysonian? Our present economic, political, and industrial mess is a direct consequence of the fact that the present generation of political and industrial leaders were educated in the Gradgrind tradition extolled by Boyson and Co.

Yours faithfully,
E. STONES,
School of Education,
The University of Liverpool,
19 Abercromby Square,
Liverpool.
December 30.

Film industry pay

From Mr John Coots

Sir, The story which appeared in your issue of yesterday (December 29) about a 15.5 per cent pay rise to certain employees in the feature film industry needs considerable clarification.

There are seven unions engaged in film making. Six of them have voluntarily agreed by the social contract. The other—the Association of Cinematograph Television and Allied Technicians (ACTT)—

My pre-tax salary was three times my UK salary. The academic salary structure in the UK is now so flat that the professor in charge of a large academic department receives, after tax, about 20 per cent more than a lecturer at the top of his scale. This is little compensation for the considerable additional responsibility carried.

Finally, Sir, the additional nonsense of inflation proof pensions which Mr Prentice tried to draw our attention to by his resignation, should not be forgotten. My father is a retired schoolteacher receiving a teachers' pension and an old age pension. He worked hard for many years and deserves a comfortable retirement. But during the period October 1975 to October 1977, he will receive an increase from his pensions equivalent to about £1,000 per year.

His professional salary during the same period will have increased by £208. It will not take too many years of the present system of restraint for the retired schoolmaster to be given more by the state than the active professor receives in salary!

Yours faithfully,
C. J. CONSTABLE,
Professor, Operations Management and Business Policy,
Cranfield School of Management,
Cranfield,
Bedford,
December 23.

reflects differences not so much in ideology as in the comparative efficiency of private enterprise. Private enterprises both in Germany and Sweden are effectively run in state—as the examples of ship building, marine engineering, machine tools, motor car production, aero engine production, etc, show—they are not.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS KALDOR,
King's College,
Cambridge,
December 31.

From Sir Alec Randall

Sir, Lord Kaldor's letter (December 24) is incomplete; it does not give credit where it is due. I was in Germany soon after the end of the war; an unforgettable scene of destruction and human despair; people were sitting among the rubble in Berlin, Hamburg, Kiel and no doubt scores of other cities. A little later there was the German "cigarette economy". Later on what an amazing change!

The present German Chancellor, Helmut Schmidt, was asked some few years ago by an interviewer on the BBC to what he attributed his country's prosperity and stability. He replied that first of all it was Ernest Bevin, Foreign Minister in the Labour Government, who, through his officials in the Control Commission got in touch with such trade unionists as could be found and in agreement with them restructured the German trade union system. "It reduced the number of trade unions", Chancellor Schmidt continued, "to 16 in all; you have, is it 100 or 200?" It made unofficial strikes illegal, prescribed a ballot or cooling-off period, and introduced measures of "workers' participation". This was approved by the Free Democrats in coalition with the Social Democrats, and has not been revoked. Moreover, it deserves to be recalled, the Federal German Social Democratic Party, "Godesberg programme" of 1959, shed all totalitarianism, welcomed cooperation with religious bodies, was committed to the mixed economy, and under certain conditions accepted, one could say encouraged, private ownership. The electoral system, a form of proportional representation, proved to give a much fairer reflection of public opinion, and by the rule that the parties who failed to reach 5 per cent of the total vote, should not have parliamentary representation, both extremes, the National Democrats and the Communists.

These constitutional changes were made by the German Government independently, but fundamentally the help Germany has recently given to this country through the IMF may be regarded as some return for the statesmanlike action taken by the Attlee-Bevin Government in regard to the reorganization of the trade unions.

Yours faithfully,
ALEX RANDALL,
9 Master Close,
Oxford,
Surrey.

refuse to recognize this policy and is in dispute with this Federation over the interpretation of cost of living clauses in its Agreement. It is not true to say that the Department of Employment "approved" the 15.5 per cent award which is in such flagrant breach of the spirit and intention of the national wage policy voluntarily entered into between the Government and the TUC.

The Department has consistently ruled that the interpretation of specific provisions in the Agreement was a matter for negotiation between the parties. Unhappily ACTT has repeatedly refused to meet the employers on this issue.

It is also quite untrue to say that the employers have "missed" payments. This Federation has already paid its employees in full the amount which it (the Federation) believes to be due (10 per cent) which in itself has opened up yawning differentials between ACTT members and workers in the other six unions.

The disputed balance (a further 10 per cent) is being held in escrow pending the outcome of arbitration. However ACTT will not agree to this course of action either and has instead ordered widespread industrial action, in further breach of its agreements.

Government and Opposition

From Lord Greenhill of Harrow

Sir, The plea in Sir Alastair Pilkington's letter today (January 4) that politicians should try "to increase the unifying forces" deserves strong support. Serious adherence to the doctrine that it is the duty of an Opposition to oppose is matched in foolishness by the policy of government "by manifesto". In the latter case policies conceived in certain circumstances are uncompromisingly made to apply in totally different conditions, in conflict with all the canons of good sense.

Sir Alastair pleads for compromise solutions better to serve the nation, though not the preferred solution of any. Where better could this wisdom be applied than in the field of devolution? As it is, in spite of the ritual issues at stake, this question looks like being fought out on the usual basis of adversarial politics.

Yours,
DENIS GREENHILL,
25 Hamilton House,
Victoria Gate, W8,
January 4.

Worker participation

From Mr Derrick Williams

Sir, You report (December 29) the Local Authority Associations as being opposed to local government employees serving as members of councils or their committees, and in particular quoted Mr Gervais Walker, the Chairman of the Association of County Councils' policy committees, as saying that employee participation in decision-making conflicts with "the British concept of local government as a democratic institution".

But the Education Act of 1944, a piece of modern legislation concerned essentially to secure the administration of the education service in local government and by democratic means, specifically requires local education authorities to appoint representatives of their teaching staff to membership of education committees, and for 30 years now such representatives have made valuable contributions to the policy decisions of local education committees.

Whether or not there is some real difference between the attitude of other groups of local government employees, what is the attitude of the Local Authority Associations to teacher participation in decision-making? There is an issue here of fundamental importance to the education service of the country. The attempt made during the preparations for the reorganization of local government in 1974 to abolish the statutory requirements for local education committees and their membership, and one trusts it will not be repeated during the debate now developing between Government and local authorities on the general principle of worker participation.

Yours faithfully,
DERICK WILLIAMS,
25 Redland Grove,
Redland,
Bristol,
December 30.

Christian names in 1976

From Mrs M. Brown

Sir, At the start of the Queen's Silver Jubilee year, Elizabeth was the name most frequently chosen by readers announcing the birth of their daughters in *The Times*. The analysis for 1976 shows further that James remained the most popular name for boys for the thirteenth year in succession.

The figures in parentheses indicate the position held in 1975. The list of boys' names has changed little since last year, except that Robert has replaced Nicholas. Among girls, Charlotte and Catherine have proved more popular than Emma and Victoria. Two traditional favourites which increased their totals in 1976 were George for boys and Margaret for girls. Among the more unusual names of choice for girls were Astraea and Serenella.

The table of first names shows James once again heading the boys, while Emma retained the lead from Sarah as she did in 1975:

James (1) 115 Emma (2) 43
Thomas (2) 75 Sarah (1) 41
William (8) 62 Alexandra
Alexander (3) 39
Edward (10) 58
Nicholas (3) 56 Lucy (6) 37
David (14) 48 Elizabeth (9) 33
Robert (22) 46 Victoria (8) 32
Charles (5) 43 Alice (34) 30
Richard (9) 42 Katherine (11) 29

In the boys' list, David and Robert took over from Benjamin and Andrew. John increased his total considerably in 1976, and almost reached the final ten. Charlotte, Rachel and Alice ousted Rebecca, Emily and Joanna. Alice made remarkable strides last year, scoring more than twice her 1975 total.

An analysis of the figures for 1976 shows that there were 4,142 births announced in *The Times* of which 2,109 were boys and 2,033 were girls. The overall figure is very close to that of 1975, which was 4,277. The following summary shows the distribution of names in 1976:

One Two Three Four Total
Boys 348 887 377 6 599 2,618
Girls 348 887 377 6 599 2,618

ISRAEL'S NEWS HOUNDS

Israel has long been justly proud of its free press. It is not perfectly free, of course. There is military censorship which sometimes spills over into the political field. There is sometimes self-censorship by editors and journalists on issues which might damage Israel's international reputation, but even this is usually broken by the weekly *Ha'Olam Ha'Ze*, which is often called the Israeli *Private Eye* but whose readership and influence are proportionally much greater. There is discrimination to the extent that it is not possible for Israeli Arabs to publish an explicitly Arab nationalist paper (though the Communist press provides them with the next best thing) or for the Arab nationalist papers which are tolerated in occupied East Jerusalem to advocate explicitly the abolition of the

Israeli state. But it remains true, and is to Israel's credit, that most of the source material of her external critics is published legally inside the country. Ambassador Herzog made a fair point in the United Nations Security Council last November when he asked his Arab colleagues, "What would you all do for speeches if you didn't have the free unfettered Israeli press as a source?"

It is very sad, therefore, that the week that has seen the demise of the last free press in the Arab world (with the imposition of official censorship in Lebanon) has also seen the role of the Israeli press called in question after the tragic death of a member of the Israeli government. According to the suicide note he left on Monday, Mr Avraham Ofir decided to take his own life because for weeks and months he had been

"tortured, libelled and tormented" by unfounded allegations in the press that he was involved in large-scale fraud. "You journalists killed him," was the understandable retort of his family to reporters demanding comment on his death. Mr Rabin, the Prime Minister, said at the funeral yesterday that his death should serve as a warning "to all who pass judgment on others without proof".

Journalists often do need reminding that those whom they write about, like Richard II, "feel want, taste grief, need friends". Libel laws, which are weaker in Israel than here, are an inadequate defence; and Truman's well-worn dictum about the heat in the kitchen is too callous to be repeated over a man's grave. The right answer can hardly be a less free press; but it should be, at least in part, a more responsible one.

THE COUNTER-FABIANS

The Institute of Economic Affairs has been surrounded by controversy since its formation twenty years ago. That is as it should have been, since its strategic purpose, or at least that of its chief entrepreneurs, has been to challenge by public argument the whole collectivist ethos that became conventional among intellectuals in the post-war era.

The Institute celebrates its first two decades of activity, even if twenty-five years would be a more usual jubilee, by publishing a retrospective synopsis of its discussions and publications (*Not from Benevolence*... by Ralph Harris and Arthur Seldon). It has succeeded in attracting many distinguished contributors to its list of authors and in encouraging examination of possible departures in economic and social policy which fewer people would now condemn as unrealistic and misanthropic than when they first appeared.

The natural comparison, when assessing the IEA, is not with purely scholarly academic institutions such as the National Institute of Economic and Social Research, but with the Fabian Society, which also sought by intelligent pamphleteering to win hearts and minds to a different conception of the role of government in society. Although the IEA must still be judged a long way from achieving the historic influence of the Fabians, whose mark is clearly visible in the reflexes of almost every government in the world, it has the

satisfaction of being on the offensive and of expanding its influence while the Fabians are but a shadow of their former selves.

Perhaps the most enduring achievement of the IEA so far will turn out to have been to make government itself a potential object of study, with its quota of failures, contradictions and weaknesses, rather than always being the great "I am" with which the economist and social critic has for too long in Britain tended to identify himself as the agent rather than the object of reform.

The experience of collectivism in a free society has certainly suggested that the potentialities of government as an instrument of social justice are severely limited. The greater the demands that are made on government, the further does it fail to satisfy expectations. Nor is this mainly because of any avoidable failure of policies or management. It arises directly from the irreconcilable nature of the Utopian demands made by rival interest groups on limited national resources.

As the process of allocating scarce resources becomes more and more politicized, disappointments which were previously directed without much effect at "the facts of life" or the "injustices of capitalism" or the "luck of the draw" become highly focused grievances against government—any government—itself. This process can only lead to an anarchic collapse of gov-

ernment in the face of the rival interest groups or to an authoritarian suspension of the right to express grievances, unless a greater area of national economic and social life is carefully and deliberately returned to non-political arbitrament by the market.

In exploring how this third alternative can sensibly be undertaken the IEA has illuminated an avenue which increasingly appears more attractive from the point of view of the ordinary individual citizen than either of the other two. But, if the IEA is to win the war of ideas, it will need to convey more clearly than it has so far that to extol the benign potential of markets is not the same as to defend capitalism and that to point to the deficiencies of state power is not the same as to condemn the humane impulses of socialism.

Adam Smith himself wrote *The Wealth of Nations* as an attack on the malignancy of the natural alliance between state power and commercial vested interests; and some among the IEA's own authors have even argued the corollary, namely that there is a natural alliance—on behalf of individual sovereignty over vested interests in the ballot box, the market place and the work-place—between the advocates of free markets and the advocates of common (but not state) ownership. In this way the IEA can rid itself of the stigma of itself being an apologist for vested interests.

THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

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Reserves fall by \$1,027m but figures show first signs that tide has turned

By David Blake

Britain's reserves of gold and foreign currency fell by \$1,027m in December, taking them down to \$4,127m. But, although the fall in reserves leaves them at their lowest level in recent years, the December figures show the first signs that the tide has turned in the authorities' efforts to restore the United Kingdom's external position.

The reserves are likely to be boosted next week by the drawing of \$1,150m from the International Monetary Fund and a \$300m swap from the United States.

The December drop was more than accounted for by the repayment of \$1,545m to the nine industrial countries which gave Britain the right to borrow up to \$5,500m during the summer.

If this repayment is excluded there are clear signs that the Bank of England was able to buy back from the foreign exchange markets some of the currency which it had sold earlier in the year in an effort to prop up the pound's value. The sum of \$444m was taken in this way.

Foreign exchange markets were mildly impressed by the reserve figures. The pound eased upwards during the day to \$1.710, up a quarter of a cent. Its effective depreciation was 43.9 per cent, down 0.2 per cent on the day.

Two special items affected the December figures apart from the repayment of the stand-by facility. The first was that the United Kingdom had received \$175m of interest owed to the United States and Canada on loans taken out just after the last war. The second was borrowing abroad of \$102m by nationalised industries.

This borrowing was carried out under a system in which the nationalised industries do not have to bear the loss they

UK RESERVES

The following are the figures for the United Kingdom's official reserves issued by the Treasury yesterday:

End of period	\$m	£m	Change in month
1976	6,582	2,526	
1977	5,446	2,526	
1978	4,478	2,787	
1979	6,789	2,860	
1980	5,429	2,863	
1981	5,713	2,749	-145
1982	5,806	2,775	-148
1983	5,429	2,883	-107
1984	6,785	3,344	+1,356
1985	7,024	3,468	+239
1986	5,905	3,082	-1,119
1987	4,848	2,833	-1,057
1988	5,423	3,083	+575
1989	5,312	2,978	-111
1990	5,370	3,010	+38
1991	5,029	2,831	-341
1992	5,158	3,092	+129
1993	4,703	2,985	-455
1994	5,156	3,118	+253
1995	4,129	2,426	-1,027

Although the December reserve figures show some encouragement for the authorities, 1976 as a whole was a very bad one for the reserves. They fell from a peak of \$7,029m in February, when they were boosted by the United Kingdom's 1975 borrowing from the International Monetary Fund.

Rebuilding them to a more acceptable level is likely to be high on the authorities' list of priorities. At present they are not even large enough to cover one month's import bill.

The authorities also remain keen to protect the reserves from the necessity of dealing with any sudden strain on the pound through a sudden outflow of funds making up the so-called "sterling balances".

Mr Teichiro Morinaga, Governor of the Bank of Japan, said yesterday that final agreement on an international scheme to do this is unlikely to be reached at next Monday's Basic meeting of central bank governors.

Any international support scheme would pose a number of technical problems where views are hard to reconcile. In particular, the United Kingdom may want the scheme to cover all the official sterling holdings, which total over \$4,000m, while a number of other countries would prefer to restrict it to a smaller sum in the range of \$2,000m.

There is also the question of what to do with the private holdings of sterling by overseas creditors, and technical details must be settled on how money should be raised if it is needed. One suggestion believed to have been considered is that the Bank for International Settlements should raise money in its own name in the Euromarkets.

Officials in London stress that all these problems are about the way in which a support scheme should operate. There is still belief in the agreement on the principle of setting up a scheme.



Mr Alan Law: Opposition a complete success.

Spy in the cab 'victory' for union

By Christopher Thomas

Lorry drivers are claiming victory in their continuing opposition to tachographs, dubbed "spies in the cab".

Action by drivers in Birmingham, scheduled to begin two days ago, was called off at the last minute.

The drivers had intended to refuse to offload any vehicle fitted with a tachograph, but the move was suspended after Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, said he had no intention of enforcing the installation of the devices which measure distance and record what is happening in the cab.

Despite EEC regulations confirming the use of tachographs, Mr Rodgers has said that he would prefer them not to be used in Britain, and is backing an initiative by Mr Jack Jones, general secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, for an EEC inquiry into the United Kingdom case.

Mr Alan Law, TGWU Midlands trade group secretary, representing thousands of drivers, claimed victory in the campaign against the tachographs.

Shell/Esso sign outline pact on North Sea participation

By Roger Vielvoe

Shell and Esso, the most vigorous opponents of the Government's plans for raising a majority of 51 per cent in commercial oil discoveries in the North Sea, yesterday formally signed an outline participation agreement that gives them access to all their offshore production in the United Kingdom.

The two companies originally opposed the Government's participation objectives because they claimed they would need all the oil they produced from the North Sea to service their extensive United Kingdom refining and marketing.

But Mr Peter Baxendale, a managing director of the Royal Dutch Shell group and chairman of Shell UK, said yesterday that the group now felt able to comply with government policy on a voluntary basis as the concept of participation had changed radically.

Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, described the memorandum of principles, which will be turned into a formal agreement by March 31, as a "form of planning agreement".

Under the agreement Shell and Esso have granted an option to BNOC to acquire 51 per cent of the group's offshore

production, but to sell back to the companies at the same price sufficient North Sea crude to support their United Kingdom refining.

It will also sell back North Sea crude that can be exchanged for quantities of heavier crudes from foreign sources so that the companies can produce the right mix of oils needed.

Mr Baxendale said that Shell's refining requirements this year would be 20 million tons of crude oil, of which three million would come from the North Sea.

General Accident's car rates go up 12pc

By John Brennan

Insurance Correspondent

The cost of motor insurance could fall in real terms this year as the leading insurance groups plan premium rate increases well below the current rate of claims inflation.

General Accident, which holds the largest share of the market among the composite insurance groups, with more than a million policies in force, yesterday announced its first premium increase for more than a year. Premiums for private cars will rise 12 per cent and commercial vehicles by 14 per cent, from February 1. But this increase, putting GA among the top five most expensive motor insurance companies, falls short of the rate of increase in claims costs, now running at more than 15 per cent a year.

GA's increase, although the first to be announced this year, comes after a decision by the Prudential—which has not been made public—to restrict its rate increase to an average of 5 per cent from January 1 as part of a "conscious decision to go for more United Kingdom motor business".

This move is unlikely to herald a rate war, however, as the Prudential, which insures some 500,000 motorists, put through rate increases totalling 42 per cent in 1975 and is one of the more expensive of the motor insurers. It now feels able to "let the rest of the market overtake" in premium terms this year.

A steady flow of rate increases are expected from the other major motor insurers in the coming months. And both Guardian Royal Exchange and Eagle Star, rated second and third behind GA in the size of their motor business with around a million and just under 900,000 policies in force respectively, are both reviewing their charges. When their new rates are set, increases of around 10 per cent are widely expected. Similar or slightly lower changes are expected from groups such as Phoenix, Commercial Union and Sun Alliance, which have held premiums steady for some time.

A clear pattern of greater selectivity in rating charges is emerging throughout the industry, with disproportionate increases in rates for commercial vehicles where charges have lagged behind claim costs. Lloyd's underwriters, who insure a fifth of private motorists in Britain and 13 per cent of the total motor market, have traditionally been more selective than the companies. Unlike the companies, which made underwriting losses on their motor accounts in three of the past six years, and are unlikely to have achieved more than break-even in 1976, Lloyd's has been in profit on motor underwriting for all but one of the past 30 years.

Damper on grain trade outlook

By Wallace Jackson

Commodities Editor

Confirmation from Moscow that the grain harvest at 223.8 million tonnes, a record, strengthens predictions that grain trade in 1976-77 will be below the 1975-76 level and that stocks will rise.

Although the Soviet Union has said that, despite the record crop, the commitment to buy a minimum of six million tonnes of grain annually from the United States will be met, total Russian imports of grain in 1975-76 were 26 million tonnes, and some strong competition to sell this year's crop, particularly from the United States and Canada, can be expected.

The American grain export business has been slow for some time. The Department of Agriculture has estimated 1976-77 wheat exports at 30 million tonnes, two million below those of last year. The Food and Agriculture Organization has gone further and said that shipwrecks may decline to 25 million tonnes.

Wheat stocks in the five major exporting areas—Argentina, Australia, Canada, the European Economic Community and the United States—at the end of the 1976-77 crop year have been estimated at 55.9 million tonnes compared with 38 million tonnes provisionally estimated for 1975-76, an increase of 50 per cent.

One effect of the record Russian harvest is that with at least 100 million tonnes of wheat, a resumption of exports of wheat to Eastern Europe may be expected. In mid-1976 it had told its allies to look elsewhere for supplies.

An area of doubt remaining is the quality of the grain. According to the United States Department of Agriculture much of it may be below average quality. Frequent rains and harvesting difficulties could have resulted in excessive moisture.

So far as the 1977 harvest is concerned, although winter grains have been reported to be progressing well in an area expanded by five million hectares, much of the increased sowing may have been in areas where severe cold could result in a substantial winterkill.

Industrial investment intentions less buoyant

By Maurice Corina

Some decline in business confidence is reflected by the results of the latest government survey of investment intentions, which have prompted a revision of capital spending forecasts by manufacturers in the year ahead.

The Department of Industry reported yesterday that intentions for 1977, which had been projected to rise by 15 to 20 per cent, are now expected to rise by 10 to 15 per cent. The survey, which is based on a questionnaire sent out at the end of October, was received in November and the first half of December when the Chancellor's action was high.

This revision bears out the warning from the Confederation of British Industry, which had also received optimistic results in its own trends inquiry, that an investment boom in 1977 could not be taken for granted.

	Manufacturing expenditure (in 1970 prices)
1970	2,130
1971	1,981
1972	1,739
1973	1,872
1974	2,024
1975	1,737
1976	1,840*
1977	1,850

* Rounded estimates.

may look a little too optimistic. In current price terms, the level of manufacturing expenditure on the revised DoI projection, will be about £5,000m in 1977 with upwards of £6,000m in 1978.

The revised estimate of spending this year is based on questionnaires sent out at the end of October but received in November and the first half of December when the Chancellor's action was high.

This revision bears out the warning from the Confederation of British Industry, which had also received optimistic results in its own trends inquiry, that an investment boom in 1977 could not be taken for granted.

Junta's economic strategy upset by severe financial crisis Chile company failures spark run on savings

Santiago, Chile, Jan 5.—A major financial crisis affecting private investment companies has brought the military government's entire economic strategy into question only days after the World Bank voted the country a \$60m (£35.3m) loan, in the confidence that its policies were fundamentally sound.

At least six private investment companies have gone bankrupt since the beginning of December. Two executives of one have been arrested on charges of fraud. The board of directors of another defaulting company is composed of prominent civilian supporters of the military regime.

The crisis has already spread to the private banks. Both the Banco Español and the Banco Osorno y la Union are under investigation by the central banking authority, although the two banks have denied this.

Señor Humberto Diaz, president of Banco Osorno y la Union, has resigned, for what he described as "personal reasons".

The government has now been forced to pass a new decree requiring private investment companies to recall all loans within 30 days, before repaying them with central bank, and accepting regular supervision of their affairs.

Observers believe the companies will not be able to recover their loans in time, and foresee more bankruptcies.

When the first company Manuel Rodriguez collapsed in December leaving \$1m debts, thousands of small investors panicked, and began to withdraw their money.

Yesterday infuriated savers gathered outside the head office of the Famsa company in Santiago, demanding their money. The board of directors of the now bankrupt company included such well-known figures as Señor Javier Leturia, prominent in the Chilean economy, and a member of the Junta to promote civilian support for the regime, and Señor Tomas Irazabal, a top official in the Labour Ministry, who has been forced to resign.

Señor Eugenio Lagos and

Señor Enrique Kaempfer, the managing director of Commercial Citron, which specialized in financing car sales, have been under arrest since late December on charges of fraud.

This particular company have been estimated at \$5.9 million, which have either gone bankrupt or are in serious difficulties.

The gravity of the situation may compel the Government to intervene further, by taking over the companies' debts and trying to shore up the shaky system.

Such a move would go against the regime's commitment to reduce government intervention in the economy to a minimum.—Inter-Press Service.

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Shift in deposits helps bank curbs

By Christopher Wilkins

With borrowing pressures slackening, banks have taken significant steps to cut back their interest-bearing resources to within the limits allowed under the Bank of England's supplementary deposit deposit scheme, known as the "corset".

Statistics released by the Bank of England yesterday show that the margin by which the banks were exceeding their permitted growth under the scheme was almost eliminated in the period after its introduction on November 18.

The corset, introduced as a device to control the inflow of deposits into banks and hence the money supply, allows banks to expand their interest-bearing resources by 3 per cent over a six-month period.

When the scheme was introduced, these resources had already grown from the base figure by 6.2 per cent for the banking system as a whole and

by almost 10 per cent for the clearing banks.

By December 8 the growth for the banking system overall had been pruned back to 3.7 per cent, while for the clearing banks it was down to about 6 per cent. To meet the target banks will have to reduce their interest-bearing deposits by about £200m by the spring.

As far as the clearing banks are concerned the key factor in the reduction, as revealed in separately published figures, has been a shift from interest-bearing deposits to current accounts. Time deposits dropped by £284m, while sight deposits grew by £362m, giving an overall increase in deposits of £78m.

The clearing banks offer no ready explanation for the increase in current account holdings, which have been relatively static recently, although the reduction of time deposits may partly be explained by a drawing down of funds by customers to finance gilt purchases.

But the clearing banks have been

taking other measures to retrench. They sold \$99m worth of gilts and cut back lending to local authorities by £151m so as to release resources and reduce dependence on interest-bearing deposits.

They are also getting some help from a lower level of borrowing demand. Lending to the United Kingdom private sector during the period dropped by £8m. That was less than might have been expected on seasonal grounds; but the underlying implied rate of growth of about 10 per cent was well below the previous month's £200m.

There was also an £86m fall in commercial bill holdings. The reduction is being taken as evidence confirming the banks' earlier view that some companies borrowed money they did not need during October and early November in anticipation of the corset scheme.

The clearing banks have also been adopting measures to ration lending to non-priority borrowers.

BANK FIGURES

The following are the figures for eligible liabilities of United Kingdom banks released by the Bank of England today:

At mid-month	Eligible liabilities £m	Rise over 3 months	Ratio %	Reserve ratio %
1976	33,453	4.9	15.2	
Nov	33,349	4.8	15.1	
Dec	33,208	0.2	15.4	
Feb	33,108	0.9	15.8	
Mar	33,909	10.6	15.6	
Apr	33,740	6.6	15.2	
May	34,029	11.5	15.2	
June	34,889	13.3	14.2	
July	35,181	18.2	15.1	
Aug	36,793	22.4	16.4	
Oct	36,613	19.9	14.4	
Nov	37,246	25.6	13.9	
Dec	36,890	12.8	13.8	

The eligible liabilities of the banking system as a whole—essentially sterling deposits—fell by over £350m during the period, pointing to a lower rate of growth in the money supply.

Financial Editor, page 17

Matthew Brown & COMPANY LIMITED

Lion Brewery Blackburn

Extract from the Report and Accounts to 2nd October, 1976.

RESULTS AT A GLANCE—in £'000	1976	1975
Turnover	15,657	11,428
Trading profit	3,144	2,418
Depreciation	(375)	(268)
Interest payable	(195)	(57)
Profit/(loss) on property disposals	26	(6)
Profit before tax	2,600	2,085
Profit after tax	1,257	989
Earnings per share	8.94p	7.07p
Dividends per share (gross)	5.40p	4.32p

1976—53 weeks compared with 1975—52 weeks.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 152.86 +0.53
The FT index: 362.7 +2.1

Rises

HS South	7p to 9p	Macpherson, D.	3p to 4p
Daily Mail Tst	10p to 12p	McLeod Russell	10p to 12p
Agass, J.	10p to 12p	Mount Lloyd	5p to 20p
Hammerson 'A'	15p to 32p	Newman Ind	4p to 34p
Harrison Cos	13p to 40p	Reed	10p to 13p
Hill, C. Bristol	10p to 94p	Travis & Arnold	6p to 83p
Imp Chem Ind	4p to 35p	WGI	6p to 82p

Falls

Anglo Am Corp	10p to 23p	Montecatini, E.	2p to 32p
Bageridge Bk	1p to 21p	Ventersop	6p to 11p
Burns Dean	2p to 3p	Vickfontein	2p to 38p
Edwards Gold	4p to 7p	Walsby	15p to 16p
Health CE	8p to 45p	Weyburn Eng	8p to 35p
Internat Inv	21p to 53p	Willis Faber	7p to 20p
Jardine M'eson	10p to 34p	Winkelmak	15p to 43p

Equities rallied from early weakness.

Gilt-edged securities gained ground.

Standing gained 25 pts to \$1,710. The "effective deration" rate was 43.9 per cent.

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THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia \$	1.62	1.57
Austria Sch	38.00	28.00
Belgium Fr	63.00	60.00
Canada \$	1.76	1.71
Denmark Kr	10.25	9.84
Finland Mkk	6.60	6.35
France Fr	8.68	8.36
Germany Dm	4.18	3.96
Greece Dr	74.00	70.00
Hongkong \$	8.30	7.85
Italy L.	1545.00	1475.00
Japan Yen	320.00	290.00
Netherlands Gld	4.35	4.13
Norway Kr	9.11	8.75
Portugal Esc	60.25	58.25
S Africa Rd	1.94	1.80
Spain Pes	119.00	112.50
Sweden Kr	7.34	6.98
Switzerland Fr	4.35	4.13
US \$	1.75	1.70
Yugoslavia Dnr	35.00	32.50

Rates for small denomination bank notes issued by Barclays Bank International Ltd. Different rates to travel cheques and other foreign currency business.

Bank Base Rates Table

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Strike stops all production of Massey tractors

By Clifford Webb

Strike pickets at Massey Ferguson's Coventry plant have stopped all tractor production and prevented 600 office staff from entering the adjoining headquarters building. More than 2,200 workers were on strike or laid off last night.

A company spokesman said: "The unofficial strike which began before Christmas is now costing us a retail sales loss of £1.5m a day."

The strike began when the company stopped payment for one shift on the new tractor cab assembly line, claiming that the 136 men were not working hard enough.

The strike has since spread to all 1,150 assembly workers and more than 1,000 other workers have been laid off.

Our Industrial Staff writes: In summer 1975 a six-week pay strike at the plant was settled only after court actions for possession of the factory after the workforce blockaded the plant.

THE WELLCOME FOUNDATION LIMITED

Report for the year ended 28 August, 1976

	1975-6	1974-5
Capital employed	£177,858,000	£148,893,000
Group sales	£290,238,000	£212,887,000
Profit before tax	£41,412,000	£26,214,000
Profit after tax and before extraordinary items	£19,804,000	£11,024,000
Expenditure on research and development	£23,062,000	£15,932,000

I am happy to be able to report continuing progress on a broad front," says Mr A. A. Gray, Chairman of The Wellcome Foundation Limited, in his annual review. "Sales have increased in all four of our operating regions and the total, amounting to £290 million, is an increase of 36% over the previous year."

Profits before tax were £41 million. This increase has been achieved in the face of rising costs for raw materials and wages, by no means all of which can be recovered in prices which, in our industry, are generally subject to outside control.

Expenditure on research and development rose to £23 million, against £16 million in the previous year, giving renewed evidence of our determination to expand this fundamental work in real terms. Of the £20 million profit after tax, once again a high proportion, 80%, has been retained in the business to finance future expansion.

Once again approximately 85% of sales to third parties were outside the United Kingdom. Direct exports rose from £44 million to £54 million. The company gained the Queen's Award for Export Achievement in 1976, the only major pharmaceutical company to win the Award.

Our operations in the United States are a most important part of the total group and have provided an increasing stream of dollar remittances to the United Kingdom balance of payments.

Our retained profits over the last five years have amounted to £48 million compared to an increase of only £25 million in net Group debt. These factors, together with a significant redeployment of assets within the Group, have enabled us to finance the very rapid expansion of our business.

This is my last annual report before retiring as Chairman of The Wellcome Foundation Limited. I feel confident that, in any manageable economic circumstances, I can forecast further progress under the leadership of Mr A. J. Shepperd as the new Chairman and Chief Executive.

The Wellcome Foundation Limited is an international group of pharmaceutical and chemical companies with headquarters in the United Kingdom. Under the will of Sir Henry Wellcome, all distributions received by the trustees who are the sole shareholders are applied by them to the support of medical and veterinary research in universities and hospitals throughout the world.

Business, Executive & Technical Appointments

wish

a very Happy, Constructive and Successful 1977 to the Country generally, Industry and especially to their Friends and Clients.

Efforts to halt strike at Cammell Laird yard

By R. W. Shakespeare
Hopes of settling the strike by 450 workers at the Cammell Laird shipyard at Birkenhead by the weekend seem to rest on continuing talks between leaders of the industry's employers' association and national officers of the Boilermakers' Union.

The strike could make 4,000 other workers idle. It began on Tuesday over wage demands which, the company claims, break the Government's pay code.

But the strikers maintain that the management has gone back on a deal made 18 months ago and withdrawn a

£2-a-week allowance due to some workers.

Yesterday a management spokesman said: "For the moment the rest of the labour force is working normally. It is difficult to say how long this can continue. The strike action is bound to lead to a progressive shutdown because the men involved are key workers."

"There is no picketing of the yard and, as far as we know, no local meetings have been arranged. But the London offices of the Shipbuilders' and Ship Repairers' Association are in constant touch with the situation and are also in touch with national officers of the union."

Sir David Barritt, the company's chairman, has given a warning that, although the yard has work until the end of this year, new orders are scarce and competition fierce. The yard is working on 12 ships—a destroyer and 11 bulk carriers.

The trouble with the boilermakers appears to arise from an agreement the management tried to negotiate with the Boilermakers' Union during 1975. This involved proposals for more flexible working arrangements and the retraining of some workers for fresh jobs.

While the agreement was being discussed the management says, some men

who agreed to retraining were paid an allowance of £2 a week. The company claims the full agreement was later rejected by a mass meeting of boilermakers and, before it could be renegotiated, the Government's pay policy was announced.

Because the increases could not be paid and a new agreement could not be renegotiated, the "temporary allowances" had to be withdrawn and the company's plans to push ahead with its flexibility policy abandoned.

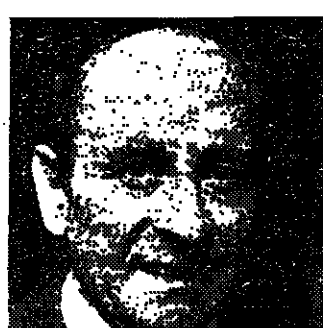
The men gave notice of their intention to strike two weeks ago, maintaining that the allowances did not breach the pay code.

In brief Union seeks meeting on jobs at Burtons

Union leaders are demanding an early meeting with Mr Cyril Spencer, the new chief executive of the Burton tailoring group, to clear up fears about redundancies. The Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers has asked for clarification of some statements attributed to the group, suggesting that "a further change in policy is about to take place".

Mr John Flood, national officer of the union's menswear section, called for a statement of intent from the company without delay. He said that the continued shift in policy, which had been a prominent feature of the group's operations over the past five years, should be brought to an end.

USDAW would insist on maximum consultation about any changes.



Mr Cyril Spencer.

Private homebuilders see continued slump

Prospects for private housebuilders this year were the worst since the 1974 slump when only 105,000 new private homes were started, Mr Tony Cavanaugh, new president of the House Builders' Federation, said in London yesterday.

"It is questionable whether that depressing low total will be greatly exceeded during 1977," said Mr Cavanaugh. "Indeed some builders are already forecasting that fewer than

100,000 new private houses will be started in the 12 months ahead. The main factor affecting confidence was uncertainty over the availability of mortgages. The federation would regret any increase in the existing 12 per cent mortgage rate but a rise in rates was preferable to a mortgage famine.

PO-suppliers partnership urged to boost telephone equipment exports

By Malcolm Brown
Establishment of a new export corporation whose prime job would be the overseas marketing of the so-called System X, the next generation of telephone switching equipment, will be discussed by the Post Office and its main telecommunications equipment suppliers within a few weeks.

Setting up such a body is the main recommendation of a report prepared by Sir Raymond Brown, Britain's former chief arms salesman, in the first of a series of examinations of the export potential of nationalized industry suppliers.

The report's recommendations were warmly welcomed at yesterday's meeting of the National Economic Development Council, according to Sir Ronald McIntosh, director-general of the National Economic Development Office.

In addition to an export corporation, Sir Raymond also suggested that Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, should have talks with Cable and Wireless, International Aeradio and Milbank Technical Services, the three publicly owned consulting bodies in the field, to find how formal links could be set up both among them, and with the proposed new corporation.

The report suggests that in the longer run there should be a rationalization of the three to provide a strong, unified consultancy.

"The need is to establish and execute a clear, detailed and agreed export marketing strategy for the exchange equipment under development. This can only be fully achieved with the active support and commitment of the Post Office."

The report suggests that the corporation's board should be made up of a part-time chairman, accountable to the Secretary of State for Industry. It would consist of a full-time chief executive and part-time representatives of the Post Office, the manufacturing companies, the publicly owned overseas consultancies and the National Enterprise Board.

Sir Raymond says he is aware of the concern of the manufacturing companies and the Post Office, and the need for disclosure of commercially sensitive information.

"I therefore recommend to the council that full consideration be given by the Department of Industry and the Post Office to the implications of any arrangements to be established for collaboration on exports."

Exports plan for paper plant trade

Mr Edward Hunt, chairman of the British Paper Machinery Makers' Association, called last night for a "sales package", embracing equipment, finance and technology, to increase exports.

Addressing the association's annual dinner at the Savoy Hotel, London, Mr Hunt said: "Future trends of our overseas business are likely to be from the developing nations."

Decision expected soon on calls for inquiry into MFC

By Our Industrial Correspondent
Ministers are examining evidence which could lead to an investigation of the affairs of Maritime Freight Carriers, the Israeli-American shipping company, the hope has been made by two of my constituents to officials of the Department of Trade on the affairs of two of MFC's British companies."

MFC operated on a complicated financial basis with many interlocking structures. It was a substantial customer of British shipyards.

The group's withdrawal has now been virtually completed with the successful sale of a tanker built by Swan Hunter to Swan Maritime's account and Scotland of one of its tankers, being completed at Scott Lithgow's yard.

The business deals of MFC's co-founders, Captain Mita Brenner and Mr Yacov Meridor, are being scrutinized by the American Securities and Exchange Commission.

Finsberg, Conservative MP for Hampstead, Mr Finsberg, who would not identify the constituents involved, said: "As a result of my intervention certain steps have been made by two of my constituents to officials of the Department of Trade on the affairs of two of MFC's British companies."

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Threat to mining industry in the South-west

From Mr Paul Ashton
Sir, As a metallurgical engineering undergraduate my worst fears for this country, which only a decade ago still seemed to be booming, were realized when the Government announced that some industrial development grants for the South-west were to be axed. In particular I refer to the direct consequences these cuts will have on the locally and nationally important tin mining industry.

Any mine accountant, the world over, will tell you that a mine exists on a precarious balance between an uncontrollable metal price which is the only source of income, and the escalating costs of labour and materials. These last two factors are increasingly dependent upon a constant development programme which, if cut back, will have two main effects.

First, and at this time of economic crisis, the most important, lack of development may endanger the jobs of many skilled and semi-skilled mine employees and so also many more people who provide secondary services to the mine and its staff.

And, secondly, if no development takes place then the South-west will lose its credibility as a region where major industrial development from Cornwall is still considered viable.

Two new tin mines have

been started in Cornwall in the past seven years and both have needed enormous capital involvement by each of the two major mining finance houses that have overseen the projects. If big fish like these in the capital expenditure tank are scared away because the Government shirks its responsibilities towards the South-west then there is little hope for the Cornish people and the country as a whole.

United Kingdom industry needs help from both the City and abroad but surely no one will blame these large companies if all involvement is going to do is cost them large sums of money. Development aid is a must for industrial stability at this time. After all, the slave who received one piece of gold from the master made nothing, but the one who received 10 made a further 10.

Thus, looking at the Government's lack of interest in the mining industry as a whole I relish the thought of leaving this diseased country and its government as well as many of my apathetic countrymen. I hope to work in Australia or Canada where the countries' leaders support the mining industry at a time of great economic crisis.

Yours sincerely,
PAUL ASHTON,
Camborne School of Mines, Camborne, Cornwall, December 16.

Eradicating pension fund 'abuses'

From Mr Roy A. Grantham
Sir, It was as disconcerting as it was depressing to read Maurice Corina's report (December 14) of the fears expressed by industrialists because of the Government's proposals on pension fund trusteeship.

The report implies that the investment decisions of superannuation funds have been satisfactory when decided by employers, whereas in fact, investment decisions are based on advice by experts in the field. We only wish that our members, whose funds have been damaged by rash investment in property and secondary banks, had had the advantage of this superior investment decision-making which, the article implies, currently obtains.

Our members who are pension fund trustees, like management pension fund trustees, have to take full account of the advice that they are given. That advice is not always as good as it should be.

The history of superannuation funds shows that many funds administered by management trustees have used houses of other sources of income to reduce employer contributions; in many cases to below that of the employees.

A major purpose of trades union trustees will be to ensure that assets must be able to generate a return for the fund. Yours faithfully,
ROY A. GRANTHAM,
General Secretary, Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical & Computer Staff, 22 Worpole Road, London SW19 4DF.

Added-value data hard to find

From Mr Tony Coad
Sir, Over the past few months, partly thanks to the increasing volume of discussion in your columns, I have become increasingly aware of the merits of measuring and rewarding industrial productivity by the yardstick of added-value. I was especially stimulated by Maurice Corina's November 29 article on the subject, and because his article referred in some detail to Geoffrey Wood's recently published productivity survey (which used added-value indices as a performance index), I gave myself the task of finding a copy of the study, and collecting national added-value data from government statistical publications. The country, after all, depends fundamentally upon the creation of added-value and so, I reasoned, would have provided itself with detailed national added-value data accessible to industry.

To my surprise this was not to be. Although the European Eurostat service publishes some added-value data, the British statistical services apparently do not, so I drew a blank there. My secretary's prodigious

efforts to find a copy of Mr Wood's survey in the major business libraries and bookshops failed entirely, although Foyles thought it might be worth my while paying them a visit. Fortunately I was lucky, and my colleagues and I are finding the data most helpful. I was interested to hear that mine was the only inquiry to date, that I had the only copy, and based upon their experience would be the only one they would sell.

I recall being told at business school that "if you cannot measure it, you cannot control it". Given your lack of interest in measuring it, I question how serious we are about improving our national productivity. I wondered why the publication of Mr Wood's book was left to the Americans, but now I applaud British publishers for understanding the domestic market so well!

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY P. R. COAD,
Reid & Timpson Associates Limited, 170 Piccadilly, London W1V 9DD, December 23.

Remedy for pilfering?

From Miss Peggy D. Stamp
Sir, Reference severe pilferage from stores and shops, surely the answer is for additional staff to be employed with a return to some counter service. The vast sums of money being lost would easily cover the cost of extra labour and to a small extent alleviate the unemployment problem.

The approach to be taken by the Association for the Prevention of Theft in Shops seems a negative one if they are willing to accept pilferages of £500m a year.

More positive thinking than this is required to reduce this national scourge. Yours truly,
PEGGY D. STAMP,
6 The Park, Gr Brookham, Leatherhead, Surrey.

German jobless again top million mark

From Peter Norman
Bonn, Jan 5
West German unemployment topped the million mark again last month, rising by 105,200 to 1,089,000—a 4.8 per cent of the working population.

Although there were about 135,000 fewer unemployed than at the end of December 1975, the average over the whole of 1976 varied little from 1975.

Average unemployment fell 13,900 last year to 1,060,300—

4.6 per cent of the working population—against 4.7 per cent in 1975.

One statistic not publicized was the decline in the foreign labour force, which had fallen to about 1.94 million at the beginning of December from its record of 2.5 million in December 1973.

If Germany had not been able to "export" more than half a million "guest workers" over the past three years, the

jobless figures for last year would have been a far greater embarrassment to the Government.

Frankfurt: West Germany showed a provisional DMI 630m surplus in November after October's downward-revised DMI 390m surplus and the upward-revised DMI 450m plus in November 1975, the West German Federal Bank said.—Reuter.

Times challenge trend, page 17

Further particulars and application forms are obtainable from THE ASSOCIATION OF COMMONWEALTH UNIVERSITIES (APU), 36 VORLON SQUARE, LONDON WC1N 1JF. The closing date for the receipt of applications is 31 January 1977.

Appointments Vacant also on page 10

UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

UNIVERSITY OF SURREY

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT AND PROFESSOR OF MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

Applications are invited for the Chair of Mechanical Engineering and Headship of the Department of Mechanical Engineering, which becomes vacant at the end of the present session following the retirement of Professor J. M. Zarek from the post.

The person appointed should have a strong commitment to the education of engineers for service in British industry; to the present undergraduate course of four years (including a year in industry), and to the development of short post-graduate courses. A proven record in research is important and a research interest consistent with those already in the department would be an advantage.

Salary, in the professional range, will be not less than £8,106 p.a., with USS benefits.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Academic Registrar (LFC) University of Surrey, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XH, or to: J. M. Zarek, 121, The Old Rectory, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XH, or to: J. M. Zarek, 121, The Old Rectory, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XH, or to: J. M. Zarek, 121, The Old Rectory, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XH.

The names and addresses of three referees, should be sent to the same address by 28 February 1977.

UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA

VACANCY

ADVERT. REF. VC-A-15

DEPUTY DEPARTMENTAL SECRETARY

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates for the post of Deputy Departmental Secretary in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

Qualifications: (a) Membership of any of the following accounting bodies: (i) Chartered Accountants, (ii) Institute of Cost Accountants, (iii) Institute of Management Accountants, (iv) Institute of Public Accountants, (v) Institute of Taxation, (vi) Institute of Chartered Secretaries, (vii) Institute of Company Secretaries, (viii) Institute of Financial Management, (ix) Institute of Estate Management, (x) Institute of Surveyors, (xi) Institute of Valuers, (xii) Institute of Quantity Surveyors, (xiii) Institute of Building Surveyors, (xiv) Institute of Planning, (xv) Institute of Town Planning, (xvi) Institute of Urban Planning, (xvii) Institute of Regional Planning, (xviii) Institute of Environmental Planning, (xix) Institute of Landscape Architecture, (xx) Institute of Horticulture, (xxi) Institute of Forestry, (xxii) Institute of Agriculture, (xxiii) Institute of Veterinary Science, (xxiv) Institute of Animal Husbandry, (xxv) Institute of Fisheries, (xxvi) Institute of Food Science 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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

An omission from Sir Harold's team

The City has acknowledged itself to the prospect of Sir Harold Wilson and his committee investigating its affairs. Indeed, it welcomes such an inquiry if, first, it serves to destroy dangerous popular myths about what the financial sector is up to and, second, if it is the price that must be paid for the spectre of bank and insurance company nationalisation to be removed.

Moreover, most people in the financial community, having overcome the initial shock, firmly believe that Sir Harold will, Lord Stansfeld put it recently, conduct his study "on an objective and non-political basis". The hope is that this committee will make a real contribution to the future structure of our financial system in the way that the Radcliffe Committee did nearly 20 years ago.

That said, there will be some unhappiness about the composition of the committee. There should have been someone in and understood the day-to-day workings of the securities market.

It is a notable omission and one which the committee may live to regret as it comes to terms with the complexity of its subject. One is bound, for example, to contrast the lack of any market specialist with the inclusion of four academics, hopefully people who are not unaware of the realities of business life.

Bank lending

The test is still to come

With the banks apparently moving back towards the limits of interest bearing, deposit growth is likely to be under the Bank of England's control. The test is still to come, and yesterday the banks were playing down the significance of the statistics for the month of December.

The next set of figures will embrace an exceptionally long six week period during which will fall the year end payment of interest and commission charges, quarterly VAT payments by manufacturing industry and the heaviest corporation tax paying period.

After January 1 companies now face a penalty for non-payment of taxes at the rate of 9 per cent a year which is not allowable as a deduction. There is strong incentive to pay promptly.

Whether or not these factors combine to produce a minor borrowing rush, the banks can be expected to take a very cautious view of their own rates, much as they did last year, almost regardless of what happens to Minimum Lending Rate.

At the start of 1976 it may be recalled, the tax gathering season turned out to be a non-event, but despite their high degree of liquidity the clearing felt justified in holding their base rates steady against a possible flood of borrowing demand at a time when money market rates might otherwise have justified a drop.

This year the banks are much less liquid and much less interested in new lending and, in any case, currently feel that it will need more than a point drop in MLR to produce even a theoretical case for a lower base rate. For all that the Treasury bill rate keeps falling, other money market rates are remaining high because of the persisting chronic shortage of day-to-day funds.

Nevertheless, it looks as though the authorities will have to do something to ease this

shortage if bank lending rates are to fall in line with MLR. That might mean a repayment of special deposits, or, at the very least, another deferral of the payment due at the end of this month. The more successful the authorities are in selling gilts, the more the relief will be needed.

Stock markets

Letting in the foreigners

The good news to start the New Year for those with the New York Stock Exchange is that the NYSE is about to reconsider the issue of the admission of foreigners.

But whether this is a move of any great significance or simply a token gesture to the Securities and Exchange Commission remains to be seen. For it appears that any moves to remove the obstacles to overseas membership could run into some not inconsiderable problems.

In particular, there would be the whole issue of the type of overseas membership to be admitted. Hard-pressed London stock brokers are not prepared to be high up the list of those knocking at New York's door. Those who would probably want to be first over the threshold would be the major European and Japanese commercial banks. And that would be precisely where the real problems start since their United States counterparts are currently denied direct market participation.

As I have said, only a handful (at most) of London firms would be interested in the high financial risks of gaining a toe-hold at the centre of the United States Securities industry at this particular time.

The market is large and probably has a considerably more secure long-term future than the British market, but it is also highly competitive. If New York does eventually open up its doors, the common expectation recently has been that London and other international markets will be expected to follow suit. London does, of course, already allow overseas nationals to become Members of the Stock Exchange, but foreigners are not allowed to operate in a London market as separate firms.

The traded option market might at some stage have been able to provide a stage-entry for foreign participation in the London market, but that particular market has not been able to attract the necessary level of interest. Some form of central representation is likely to lead to a hopeless conflict of national interests.

The opening up of the main market would obviously be fraught with problems, in the first instance it looks to be in the States. Certainly, some London brokers would like to see the London market opened up to foreigners in the hope that this would help to revive London as a true international market once again.

But it may equally well be that foreigners interested in the London market are content to limit their interest (and their liability) to the existing reciprocal arrangements that some already have with the natives.

Ahead of Bullock, few companies are willing to diverge their reaction to the possibilities in detail. But for groups like Shell and Unilever it could well lead to some corporate restructuring to establish simply a United Kingdom holding company for trade union members to sit on, though the legal and exchange control complications, not to mention the opposition of the unions, involved in shifting the base of operations out of the United Kingdom would be horrendous.

Selection Trust

Teutonic promise

Selection Trust has yet another new mine, or at least that is what can be inferred from the latest drilling results from the Teutonic Bore copper/zinc prospect in Australia. The news was worth another 15p on the shares yesterday and, given that much of the market was largely ignorant of the latest develop-

ments, must be good for further appreciation.

True, ST's shares have appreciated by more than a quarter (partly as a result of American buying and partly as a result of Teutonic anticipation) since the beginning of December, smartly outstripping the other United Kingdom mining finance houses and the FT 30 share index. And the latest Teutonic results are, not unexpectedly, not quite as good as the first drilling results.

But they have partly delisted the mineralization zone—diamond drilling continues—and they have shown that there is a viable high grade, if small, mine suitable to open cast mining.

It is precisely this kind of mine that ST needs—relatively low capital expenditure producing a fast cash flow. Given the group's already heavy capital commitments for its other projects, a large but high cost mine, would have been just about the last thing it needed.

The Teutonic results are likely to win back most of the former friends who deserted ST over fears about its ambitious development programme. They will also give added spice to the shares of ST's Australian arm—Selcast Exploration.

Bullock

Posers for the multinationals

The Bullock Report on industrial democracy may well lead to radical changes in the corporate structure of multinational companies if, as seems probable, its proposals ignore the rather different requirements of international groups who have many of their assets and employees outside the United Kingdom.

What particularly worries several multinationals—to judge by the tenor of their evidence already to the committee—is the effect British trade union representation will have on the decision-making process of groups that by their very nature have to take a global view, particularly as regards the direction of investment which has been something of a hot potato in the past few years.

Certainly, the adoption of a unitary rather than a two-tier board which appears to be one of Bullock's central proposals, could give British employee representation a disproportionate influence over decisions, a degree of influence that is not accorded employees working overseas. Some form of central representation is likely to lead to a hopeless conflict of national interests.

The sort of obstacle has already been encountered in Europe to some extent by the supervisory and executive board structure, and in Holland there is a rigid distinction between worker participation at the national and international level.

Even so, the problems that can arise are amply illustrated by Volkswagen, whose supervisory board recently kicked out rough over plans for investing in the United States.

Moreover, multinationals deeply involved in developing countries have even more cause for worry since increasingly now they are joint shareholders with local governments.

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German economic miracle questioned by unions

The West German Government is accustomed to having pressure put on it to reflate. Mr Cullaghan, in his radio interview of last week, was the latest in a long line of foreign statesmen and central bankers who have tried—so far unsuccessfully—to get Bonn to do more to stimulate the domestic economy.

Now, however, the foreign hopefuls can expect more powerful support from a strong ally in Germany itself. The West German trade union movement is convinced that more must be done to achieve stronger economic growth with the aim of restoring full employment.

Next Tuesday representatives of the Government, Federal Bank, employers and unions get together in the Bonn Economics Ministry for another meeting of the "concerted action" committee to discuss the state of the economy.

They do so at a time of growing uncertainty over the strength of the economic upswing in West Germany. The Bonn Economics Ministry recently revised its real growth estimate for 1976 down to 5.5 per cent from 6 per cent previously and is now forecasting a real 4.5 per cent to 5 per cent rise in real gross national product this year.

Other observers are less optimistic, though. The OECD, for example, putting the likely growth of the German economy this year at only 3.5 per cent. The unions, under the aegis of the Deutscher Gewerkschaftsbund, the German TUC, will take the opportunity of next week's meeting to tell the government that the forecast growth in the economy this year will be insufficient to bring about a significant reduction in the high unemployment rate.

The unions have made similar noises in the past. But their stance next week is likely to be more determined than before as they are losing patience with government policy and with the German general election out of the way are freer than at any time in the past 18 months to criticize the actions of the Social Democrat-Free Democrat coalition government of Chancellor Schmidt.

The unions are in the middle of the annual round of wage bargaining and having to fend off rank and file discontent after a year of remarkable wage restraint.

Last year the unions settled for wage increases averaging between 5 and 6 per cent, fully realizing that corporate profits would rise at a faster rate than earnings, but hoping that the profit rise would (as the Government expected) be translated into increased industrial investment and more jobs.

Investments rose last year, probably by a real 5 per cent, but were insufficient to make an appreciable dent in the number of unemployed.

Herr Heinz Oskar Vetter, the chairman of the DGB, has given vent to his dissatisfaction with this train of events in a number of interviews with German newspapers and magazines. Coming in the slack news period around Christmas and New Year, Herr Vetter's remarks have made him perhaps the most talked about man in Germany at the moment.

However, it does illustrate that for Herr Vetter it is unemployment that has become the paramount economic problem in Germany today.

Ever since unemployment in West Germany began to move up to the million mark and beyond, the government in Bonn has insisted that its first priority has been the restoration of full employment.

In practice this has meant Bonn making its first priority the combating of inflation. In pursuing this goal, the government's policy has been crowned with conspicuous success as shown in the decline in the annual rate of consumer price increases in the last few months of last year to below 4 per cent.

But what the German Government and Federal Bank in Frankfurt have tended to forget is that the unemployed are more than mere statistics. A million unemployed means untold difficulties for the affected families and young people. Herr Vetter is fully aware of this.

So far the government, and particularly the Free Democrat Economics Minister Dr Hans Enderichs, have been happy to see a moderate level of overall economic growth flanked by special programmes intended to occupy or relocate the jobless. At present a multi-year investment programme to improve regional and local infrastructure is in preparation but the precedents for it being able to solve the unemployment problem are hardly encouraging.

Next week, the unions can be expected to put forward suggestions aimed at stimulating and possibly steering demand in a more constructive manner. Herr Vetter has said he would like to see the economy grow at a real 6 per cent per year to offset the effects of industrial rationalization and absorb the growing number of young people coming onto the labour market over the next decade as a result of the high birth rate in the 1950s.

But the unions will not be putting forward a "programme" for full employment as such. Nor are they likely to challenge the principles of free competition in German society or the need to hold inflation at bay.

What they will probably try to do is ask whether demand can be stimulated in a more effective way and try to reduce the emphasis placed on the Federal Bank's monetary policy of "tight money" and Germany's economic development.

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Peter Norman

In a recent interview with the news magazine *Der Spiegel* he said that the unions had never fully believed in the thesis that higher profits led to job creating investment and that their scepticism had been fully confirmed by the events of the past year.

He underlined a fact that has always been skated over by the Government's economic strategists, namely that higher profits are often used to rationalize jobs out of existence.

Particularly alarming for the largely conservative German press was a stab that Herr Vetter made at that sacred cow of German economic thinking, the social free market economy, when he questioned whether it can form the basis of German society in the future if both sides of industry are unable to restore full employment within its framework.

In another newspaper interview he suggested that a last resort method of combating unemployment would be to cut working hours. Work available would be shared round more evenly and as an act of solidarity with the unemployed, the workers accepting a cut in working hours should also take a commensurate cut in income.

Such a proposal, seemingly so at variance with present union demands for wage increases of 10 per cent, has been rejected by various member unions of the DGB, employers groups and economic research organizations while the Government has distanced itself from the idea.

The BAC contract is expected to last for four years, and other British companies under the BAC umbrella will benefit from the deal, including Plessey, Lucas, Hawker Siddeley, Laird, Warton, Calsonic, British Oxygen and GEC.

BAC is also thought to be bidding for the ministry of defence and aviation hospital in Jeddah, currently run by America's Whitaker Corporation, whose contract is coming up for renewal.

By far the greatest disappointment to the Americans in Saudi Arabia to date is the loss of the \$300m construction contract for the new Jeddah international airport, which Brown and Root lost to the West German company Hochtief.

Five years ago the Saudi market was not as attractive as it is today, and the Americans had covered most of the worthwhile projects. This situation lasted until about two years ago, when United States supremacy was challenged by competition from other countries flooding into the kingdom, either because they were in urgent need of redressing their balance of payments after steep increases in the price of oil, or because they were attracted by the highly desirable shopping list to emerge from the Saudis' five-year development plan.

Admittedly to a "certain wariness" between the Americans and Saudis about the implications of the anti-Jewish boycott, Mr Eblam agrees that there is now a danger that the American share of the Saudi business as a result of boycott regulations on both sides.

While 1976 was very much the autumn of America's discontent in Saudi Arabia, this year changes to the law could be the year of rapid decline.

"Tiger what? Cut in Barracough, chairman of the Home Office's Poisons Board and member of many drug advisory bodies."

"Balm," said Waterhouse succinctly.

"Oh," replied the magistrate, and Waterhouse continued, only for the lights to go out.

When, a minute or so later, they were restored, Barracough ignored both the interruption and the tittering from the gallery. Waterhouse began where he left off, in mid-sentence. Slater and Tarling resumed taking notes.

Waterhouse who looks like a younger Lord Roobhy, began, softly but insistently, saying that although much had been said recently about the administration of justice in Singapore it might be that this was not relevant to the matters now before this court.

This had no visible effect on Slater or Tarling who sat not in the dock but with their solicitors, in the second row behind their counsel.

For much of the morning the two men were frozen in identical postures, head propped up the left hand, while the right scribbled away in exercise books.

Waterhouse's by now familiar chair, Richard Tarling.

The Kaldor Kink

Why after 25 years of unprecedented prosperity and comparative stability did the world economy go off the rails in the 1970s? Explanations abound; and they will doubtless continue to do so as long as economists have breath.

But consensus is far to seek; and any reasonable hypothesis deserves attention. The abandonment of fixed exchange rates, suddenly increased militancy of trade unions, Opec, the fiscal and monetary irresponsibility of western governments, the mysterious 60-year rhythms of Kondratieff's cycles and even the long-awaited fulfilment of Marx's predictions of capitalist over-production have all been blamed for the trouble.

There is even a man who has been writing to me for 10 years predicting and then explaining disaster as the inevitable consequence of the foreign exchange costs of the British Army on the Rhine.

The ever fertile Professor Lord Kaldor offers his own explanation in the *Economic Journal*, where his presidential address to the Royal Economic Society last July is reprinted. It is eclectic in that it rejects any single simple explanation and embraces in a broader pattern a number of the factors which others have made the sole or principal causes of the "combination of inflation and economic recession" which, as Lord Kaldor remarks, "is a new phenomenon the explanation of which presents an intellectual challenge to economists".

His thesis in brief, as I understand it, is that the source of the trouble lies in the permanent vulnerability of the world economy to any instability, upwards or downwards, in commodity prices. We lie always at the angle of a kinked curve and move from it at our peril.

The danger was held at bay for the first two decades after the Korean war by a lucky accident. Political pressures on America's farm lobby for income support and from the military lobby for a strategic food reserve led the Government in Washington to operate an unintentional but effective world buffer stock in grain.

Under President Nixon the picture changed. . . . If the United States had shown greater readiness to export surplus grain (instead of trying by all means to eliminate its huge surpluses by giving away wheat under PL 480 provisions and by reducing output through acreage restrictions) the sharp rises of food prices following upon the large grain purchases by the USSR, which unhinged the stability of the world price level far more than anything else, could have been avoided."

(It is obscure in Lord Kaldor's exposition why American stabilization of world food prices, in the face of soaring demand and falling supply, if they had been less willing to disperse their stocks cheaply or gratis.)

Thus the world economy was fully exposed to nature's, or at least the price mechanism's, whims. The big rise in monetary demand for food and raw materials that developed from the summer of 1972.

This in turn was caused by the "favourable" movement in the terms of trade between manufactured goods and commodities to which the world-wide explosion in industrial countries between 1968 and 1971 had led.

The problem was aggravated by "a great deal of commodity buying as an inflation-hedge", which was encouraged both by general inflationary expectations and by the currency upheavals following the formal suspension of the gold convertibility of the dollar in August 1971, leading people to use commodities including gold itself as a store of value in the absence of any stable monetary medium.

The quinquennial of the price of oil, occurring after commodity prices had already doubled or trebled, was merely the last straw.

The wage inflation of 1968-71 is attributed by Lord Kaldor to a combination of generally "increased trade union militancy mainly attributable to the sharply rising deductions from the pay packet for payments of income tax and insurance contributions" and a yet-to-be-explained international explosion of "long-smouldering resentment and dissatisfaction which, when matters came to a head in one country, caused the rapid spread of the eruption to others".

Lord Kaldor distinguishes this bolt-from-the-blue phenomenon from the "creeping inflation" of 1953-67, which he attributes to the interaction of "powerful social forces which make for constancy in relative earnings in different trades and occupations" with the tendency for wages in the so-called dynamic sectors, which set the pace for the rest, to run ahead of productivity gains in other less favoured sectors.

Throughout, Lord Kaldor appears to assume either accommodating monetary and fiscal policies, which prevent higher supply prices for labour from causing any unemployment, or a limitless capacity and willingness of manufacturing employers to absorb higher wage costs in reduced profit margins or both (perhaps the second intra-cyclically and the first inter-cyclically).

For all of these reasons—trade union militancy, the abandonment of fixed exchange rates, the failure of American grain stocks to play their former role, Opec, western fiscal and monetary policies—the world economy was by 1973 fully exposed for the first time since the 1920s to the natural and "normal" consequences of a mismatch between the output of the primary (commodity-producing) and secondary (manufacturing) sectors of the world economy. In that sense Marx's industrial over-production is also embraced in the thesis.

These natural and normal consequences, for so long suppressed by good fortune, are the theoretical core of Lord Kaldor's explanation. This rests on the fundamental proposition from the theory of basic commodity prices—irrespective of whether it is in favour of or against the primary producers—tends to have a dampening effect on industrial activity."

In classical theory the terms of trade (that is the relative prices) between the basic sector of the world economy, move to preserve the necessary balance between the output of each sector, which being complementary to the other, must produce as much but no more than the other sector can absorb. According to Lord Kaldor, however, the mechanism does not work symmetrically.

A relative over-supply of primary products causes a fall in their price, which is determined by the level of effective demand. This in turn causes a fall in primary sector incomes and so a fall in that sector's ability to buy manufactured products. But a relative under-supply of primary products, while causing a rise in their price, also causes a rise in the price of manufactured goods. For their prices are cost-determined; and raw materials (including food for industrial workers) are an industrial input to the manufacturing process. Their prices are automatically added.

So, whichever way commodity prices move absolutely, they tend, if they move at all, to fall in relation to manufactured prices, thereby cutting primary producers' real incomes and so depressing demand for manufactured goods.

Moreover, in the second case, where primary prices have fallen, the governments in industrial countries tend to react to the evidence of rising prices by pursuing deflationary (or at least less than fully accommodating) fiscal and monetary policies, thus reinforcing the phenomenon of inflation and economic recession whose explanation presented the original intellectual challenge to economists."

The remedy, according to Lord Kaldor, therefore lies in stabilising commodity prices. To this end he urges the world's governments "to create international buffer stocks for all the main commodities, and to link the finance of these stocks directly to the issue of international currency, such as the special drawing rights, which could thus be backed by, and directly convertible into, major commodities such as food, foodstuffs, fibres and metals."

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Stock markets

Waddington more than doubles at half way

up 6p, ahead of figures which are scheduled to come today.

Among random features there were: British Leyland, up 3p to 25p, paint maker D. Macpherson son 3p to 40p, Caplan Profiles 4p to 41p, J. Haggas 10p up 28p and McLeod Russel 6p to 126p.

Where changed, most leaders gained a point or so in after-hours trading. Oils tended to be easier and properties ran into light profit-taking. News of a bid approach put 8p on Kodak International at 57p and shorted dared gilts went a little firmer. Equity turnover on January 5

Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were BP, BAT Dfd, ICI, Shell P & O, Barclays Bank, Lloyd's Bank, National Westminster Bank, Ultramar, Trust Houses Forte, English China Clay, Ladbrokes, Furness Withy, Epicure Holdings, Associated Engineering, Rank, Myson, Hammerson "A" and Land Securities.

Year ago	Pay date	Year's total	Prev year
3.5	7/3	5.5	5.0
1.6	16/3	—	4.34
0.68	11/3	—	1.54
1.0	31/1	—	5.3
1.31	15/2	6.45*	5.86
1.92	4/3	3.75	3.5

* Net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere, dividends are shown on a gross basis. For 1992, dividend by 1.54. * Forcast.

Beaver Gp and C H Industrials rise on merger talks

It will handle the professional indemnity insurance now in the London-based companies of C. T. Bowring (Insurance) Holdings, in the United Kingdom, Europe and Africa.

This company, will also be responsible for managing the Bowring group's interest in two associated companies—London Insurance Brokers and RICS Insurance Services.

**Bid approach lifts
Kode Int shares**

A jump of 8p to 57p in the shares of Kode International

chairman, and a board meeting will be called on Friday to consider it.

**US group to take a
14pc stake in Anchor**

The board of Anchor Chemical has agreed that Sartomer Industries Inc will subscribe for 400,000 new ordinary shares in Anchor at 45p a share. Bank of England permission has been granted.

The share issue representing 14 per cent of the Anchor capital as enlarged, will "further the existing relationship" between the two

from £160,000 to £219,000. However, a better second half was seen in 1975, pre-tax profits fell from a record £454,000 to £286,000. At CH the first half saw a turnaround in 1975 brought in by a profit of £226,000 before tax, and the second half was expected to be even better. The 1975 record was £248,000 against a record of £443,000.

Wellcome jumps 58pc

An increase of 36 per cent to £290m in sales at Wellcome Foundation for the year to August 28, includes £21m from the fall in the value of sterling.

But Mr A. A. Gray, the outgoing chairman, says the real progress was made in pre-tax profits jumped 58 per cent to

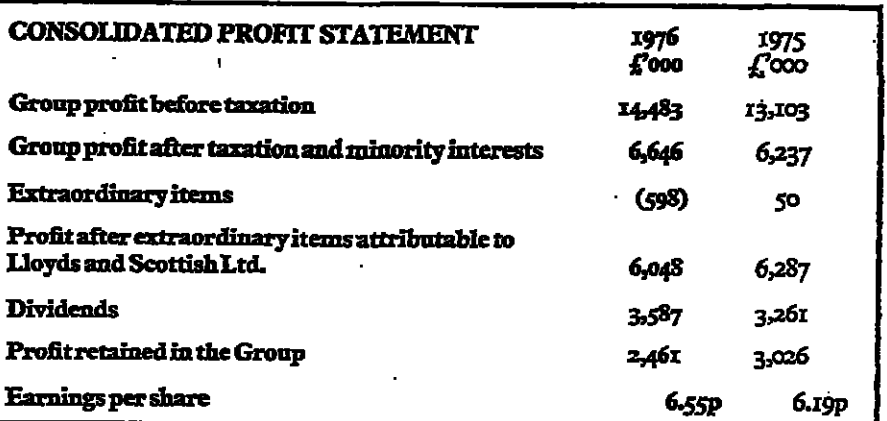
Expansion continues, and in March the group plans to open its first branch in Europe at Amsterdam.

C. T. Bowring

C. T. Bowring is forming a new company, C. T. Bowring Professional Indemnity, to operate, at once as a Lloyd's broker.

Business appointments


New advisory member on Unilever NV board



***FUTURE PROSPECTS**
—Diversification of the Group's activities has strengthened its ability to produce a credible performance in spite of adverse economic circumstances. The principal involvement of the Group continues, however, to be in the instalment finance industry and events of the past few weeks make it hazardous to comment on the prospects for the current year.

Since the end of our financial year, there have been increases in the minimum lending rate and the Bank of England has introduced a credit control on banks and deposit-taking finance houses. These factors will affect demand and the prospects for growth. We enter the New Year, therefore, in a climate of uncertainty. Over the years, however, the Group has had to face similar situations and has weathered the storms well; I am confident that it will continue to do so.

- * Group profit before tax amounted to £14.5 million compared with £13.1 million in 1975—an increase of 10.5%.
- * **INSTALLMENT CREDIT AND LEASING DIVISION**
 - Growth in volume of corporate business tied to a published base rate.
 - Volume increased during second half of year.
- * **INDUSTRIAL AND COMMERCIAL DIVISION**
 - Higher profits from distribution, factoring and recent acquisitions.
- * Dividends per share have increased to 3.5337p, the maximum permitted under the provisions of the Counter Inflation legislation on company dividends, from 3.22675p last year. The year's dividend is covered 1.85 times.



Mr Wakefield Mr Perutz

Mr Herbert Morley is now chairman of Bridon Wire in succession to Mr J. E. Barnwell. Mr Morley has taken over as chairman of Templeborough Rolling Mills from Mr Harry Smith, Bridon's chair-

[illegible]

Briefly

TELFER
Second distribution on ordinary of 2p a share, making 6p a share, payable Jan 24.

BCT
British Cinematograph Theatres reports turnover for half-year to

July 31 down from £1.32m to £1.14m, including VAT. Pre-tax profits fell from £59,000 to £7,000. Year's results should be much better and amply cover usual dividend.

MATTHEW BROWN

Mr C. J. Ainscough, chairman, reports that trade after eight weeks of current year has held up well, despite general price increase in October. Indeed, it is "marginally up" on last year.

WHITECROFT-HANSON
The stake of 25,000 shares in Whitecroft referred to yesterday, was not bought by Hanson Trust, but by Laing & Cruikshank, broker to Whitecroft. It bought 20,000 at 130p for associates, and

PHOENIX ASSURANCE
Net new annual premiums for 1976 were £11.6m (£10m). In addition, single premiums were £3.9m (£1.8m). New annuities

PLESSEY Third quarter figures 1976-77 to be announced on Thursday, January 27.

MONTFORT (KNITTING MILLS)
 Stake of Master Securities and
 Mr Raphael Djanogly in ordinary
 raised from 14.65 per cent to 18.4
 per cent.

CAPLAN PROFILE
 Final 2.79p, making 4.29p per

again, or 6.6p gross. Turnover £3.1m (£2.7m). Pre-tax profit, £437,821 (£463,305). Turnover now up on year ago and profit should benefit.

GOLDEN HOPE
Cazenove has bought 100,655 GN

Bank statements for Dec
Statements of the London Clearing
in England and Wales

with associates bought 15,400 GHI at 75p.

BRICKHOUSE DUDLEY
Brickhouse Dudley, manufac-
turers and distributors of drain-
age products for the building and
civil engineering industry, has
purchased the pattern equipment
and goodwill, for cash, of A. C.
Woodrow & Co of Beckenham,
Kent.

WOLVERHAMPTON & MERCIA
On December 31, the new Wolverhampton & Mercia Building Society came into being. The result of a merger between four long-established and reputable building societies—Wolverhampton Building Society, Mercia Building Society of Westbury, Bebbington Building Society of Liverpool and the Midland Permanent Building Society of Cradley Heath—the society begins life under its new name with assets in excess of £100m.

H. SAMUEL
After 11 months of current year, board expects results for full year will again be "satisfactory" and will justify increasing dividend by maximum. First gross interim raised from 1.53p to 1.69p.

CHARTERHALL FINANCE
Charterhall Finance Holdings has completed the acquisition of Norminol (UK) for a consideration of £250,036 in cash. Norminol is directly concerned in exploration in UK offshore areas and its main

asset is a one-third of 1 per cent working interest in Licence P241 North Sea covering blocks 21/1 and 21/6. The Buchan Field is located in block 21/1.

BPC's US move
Macdonald Educational, part of British Printing Corporation, is forming a new United States publishing company to be

The new company Macdonald, Raintree Inc., which has acquired the assets of RPC's

United States subsidiary, Purnell Educational, New York, will be under the management of Raintree and will operate from Milwaukee. It will have two divisions: Purnell Refer-

ence Books and Macdonald-Rainree Juvenile Books.

December

Banks and their banking subsidiaries

Bank statements for December

Statements of the London Clearing Banks and their banking subsidiaries in England and Wales, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man made up to December 8 are summarized in the table below:	in millions				
	Total	Change Month	Barclays	Lloyds	National Westminster
Total Deposits	45,054	+ 16	12,177	8,599	9,008
Cash and balances	4,504	+ 10	1,217	859	900
Loans	1,076	+ 40	319	173	253
Market Loans	8,786	+ 156	2,164	1,564	2,715
Other	1,761	+ 24	572	238	212
Special Deposits	1,761	+ 24	572	238	212
Government	1,761	+ 24	572	238	212
Stocks	1,739	—	563	330	36
Parent banks	13,577	— 10	3,820	2,531	2,687
Reserve ratio (%)	25.2	— 0.1	13.8	13.3	13.3

BELL'S
SCOTCH WHISKY
Afore ye go

Stock Exchange Prices

Firm at the close

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Jan 4. Dealings End, Jan 14. Contango Day, Jan 17. Settlement Day, Jan 25.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Drummond's
Freedom
Suits...ask your tailor!



BRITISH FUNDS				COMMONWEALTH AND FOREIGN				LOCAL AUTHORITIES				FOREIGN STOCKS				DOLLAR STOCKS				BANKS AND DISCOUNTS				BREWERS AND DISTILLERS			
Stock	Price	Change	%	Stock	Price	Change	%	Stock	Price	Change	%	Stock	Price	Change	%	Stock	Price	Change	%	Stock	Price	Change	%	Stock	Price	Change	%
British Airways	10.00	0.00	0.0	Commonwealth	10.00	0.00	0.0	Local Authorities	10.00	0.00	0.0	Foreign Stocks	10.00	0.00	0.0	Dollar Stocks	10.00	0.00	0.0	Banks and Discounts	10.00	0.00	0.0	Brewers and Distillers	10.00	0.00	0.0

MAN IN WOOL
Pure New Wool

ST. MICHAEL'S
SOUTH TRADING
LONDON

STIENNE
Leather Goods

WILSON

La creme de la creme Opportunities

—Managerial—Administrative—Secretarial—Personal Assistants—

All recruitment advertisements in this category are open to both male and female applicants

DYNAMIC MANAGER/ESS FOR YOUTH TRAVEL OFFICE LONDON W.1

Vacancy from February 1st approx. for person with good administrative skills, experience of overseas marketing, some EFL and a background demonstrating leadership qualities.

Successful applicant would be trained to take over control of office. An opportunity for an ambitious, mature and capable person with lots of energy, humour and integrity.

Salary from £3,500 with travel concessions, incentive bonus, etc. Four weeks' holiday.

Ring Ms Blakey, 935 5743/4

ETIENNE AIGNER (Exclusive Leather Fashion)

require for their new London shop in

NEW BOND ST.

CASHIER
SENIOR SALES ASSISTANT
5 SALES ASSISTANTS
Age range 20-30

Fluent French or Italian or German is required for 3 of the above 7 posts. Above average rates paid; generous fringe benefits. Apply stating experience to:

HOMSTONE LTD., 198 Walton St., SW3 2JL.

HAMBURG UP TO £6,750

A British Secretary is required by an International Bank to work for the Manager in their Central Loans Department. The right candidate must have excellent spoken and written English, be able to operate a typewriter, and handle office correspondence. Holidays to U.K. paid and assistance given with accommodation and medical expenses. Age 20+.

OVERSEAS DIVISION
SENIOR SECRETARIES

173 Old Bond St., W.1. 01-493 6092 : 01-493 5807

FASHION

Director of Fashion House seeks meticulous Secretary aged 30-45.

Salary negotiable around £3,000

Free lunches, discount on clothes

TRICOVILLE,
91-93 Great Portland St., W.1.

01-580 7137

PERSONNEL

Person with common sense, initiative and high degree of tact and efficiency required for responsible post as Staff Partner running Personnel Section of City professional services firm. Total staff approximately 200. The person appointed will be responsible for recruitment, selection, training, discipline, promotion, and staff welfare. Duties include interviewing and hiring staff, maintaining staff records and dealing with minor staff problems. Other duties are ordering and arranging for stationery and office equipment, day to day matters in connection with the running of the office building etc. Applications will not be considered from anyone under 30 years of age, and although formal qualifications are not necessary, it is essential that applicants should have experience in a similar position. Salary (£2,500-£4,000 negotiable) will be commensurate with the responsibility involved. Please send brief details of a.c. to:

Box 2238 P, The Times.

E. BERKS/ S. BUCKS

Important Secretary/Manager position in small but efficient firm. The successful candidate will be responsible for all administrative activities, including typing, filing, and handling correspondence. Salary £2,500 p.a. plus 4 weeks holiday. Please apply to:

Patricia Symons
GLOUCESTER (75) 35558

SECRETARY/ASSISTANT

23 plus for 2 directors of private City bank. Good formal skills. Adaptable person who likes variety to work in happy atmosphere with very good conditions. Salary around £3,500 plus 35p L.V.s, 4 weeks holiday p.a., and usual fringe benefits. Please telephone Miss Reed 823 4211

AMERICAN MEDICAL (U.K.) LTD. P.A./SHORTHAND SECRETARY

(non medical) required for the Director of Administration and Operations (Europe) based in W.1. Applicants should have first class secretarial background and be capable of handling this important office and administrative duties. Salary £3,000-£3,500 p.a. Telephone Miss Bates 01-487 5171/5227

STRAND-ON-THE-GREEN W.4

Director of small informal company requires competent Secretary. Good salary, 4 weeks holiday. PLEASE RING MISS WICKS, 01-727 3621

AUDIO/COPY TYPIST

Chartered Accountants require a copy typist for their office. Salary £2,500 p.a. plus 4 weeks holiday. Apply to:

Quill's Agency
125 Tottenham Court Rd.
W.1. 01-487 5171/5227

P.A. ADMIN. SECRETARY

Small West London book publisher needs organised lady with good typing, some bookkeeping, office systems experience, good salary, 4 weeks holiday. Apply to:

Phone Mr. Bartholomew 602 6855

Petroleum Industry Training Board TRAINING ADVISER

Clerical & Commercial
Salary range £4,029-£8,664 pa.
(Promotion bars at £6,045 and £7,542)

Entry within the above range according to qualifications and experience. Duties are to provide advice and guidance to companies to encourage them to meet their training needs.

QUALIFICATION: Degree or professional qualification essential.

EXPERIENCE: In the training function or considerable management experience embracing training responsibility is necessary.

SKILLS: Evidence of possession of interviewing, analytical and report-writing skills will be expected. Apply in writing giving only age, formal qualifications and brief details of industrial experience. Application form and job description will be sent to those possessing the basic qualifications.

Applications to:
The Secretary,
Petroleum Industry Training Board,
York House, Empire Way,
Wembley, Middlesex.

INTERNATIONAL COMPANY

Seeks intelligent, educated Secretary to work for a Senior Executive at its Mayfair Headquarters. The successful applicant will be capable of working on own initiative and will be rewarded with a salary up to £3,344, plus other benefits, and superb working conditions.

Telephone 01-492 0945

Chairman's Secretary

Advertising and Communications

The Chairman and the Financial Director of a major advertising and communications group based in W.1 require a first rate Secretary.

The job calls for experience at a senior level, competence, accuracy, initiative and the ability to get on well with people. No shorthand. Room to grow.

Salary is unlikely to deter the right person. Please write or type a good letter about your career to date. John Makin, Management Development Director, 39-40 Eagle Street, London WC1R 4AS.

LUXURIOUS WEST END OFFICES of International Export Co.

require an experienced SECRETARY

able to work on own initiative. Excellent speeds in shorthand/typing and general secretarial duties. Circa £3,750 p.a., plus own luxury office.

Interested?
Contact Mr. Geoffrey Isaacs
01-405 8261

Rare breed of bird

Urgently wanted in captivity as Private Investment Secretary/Social P.A. and travelling companion to international businessman. Must be well educated, age 25/40, and like business and investment involvement. For relaxation it would help if it enjoys entertaining, hunting, sailing. Own accommodation provided. London and country. Write details to:

BOX 2795 P, THE TIMES.

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Travel Agents, Vicarage Road, London W.1. An opportunity for an outside sales representative to join a successful firm. The successful candidate will be responsible for the sale of travel services to the public. Salary £2,500 p.a. plus 4 weeks holiday. Please apply to:

Box 2795 P, The Times

MANAGER/ESS Fabrics Department

An opportunity has occurred to join the small, but happy band of people who run The Cotton Shop. Salary according to experience £2,750-£3,500. If you have had first-class retail experience, know about fabrics, and are interested in modern design, then telephone David Millard on 789 7401 for an interview.

SEC/PA FOR M.D.

Young, expanding European Advertising Agency needs capable Administrator to absorb routine and to develop additional roles. Good salary and opportunity. For appointment send c.v. or ring Mrs. J. Shillwell, Clough, Howard, Richards and Co., 11 Hanover St., London, W.1. 01-629 3127.

INTERNATIONAL LAWYER

P.A./SECRETARY Job of the week for dynamic P.A. 20+, to join City-based American Oil Corporation. Prospects unlimited. JUST THE JOB

STELLA FISHER TODAY

Chairman's Secretary, not under 25, with excellent skills. W.C.1. £3,000-£4,000 p.a. we also need good Temp. Secs. and Andies. 110 Strand, W.C.2. 01-629 3127

ARE YOU VERY SPECIAL?

£3,600 If so, become involved as Senior Secretary to a leading firm. Salary £3,600 p.a. plus 4 weeks holiday. Apply to:

Personnel Consultants

THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND

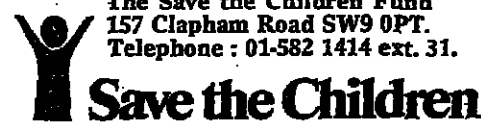
PRESS OFFICER

The Press Officer must have considerable journalistic experience for vital and interesting work in our London Headquarters. He or she will be directly responsible to the Head of Public Relations.

The successful applicant will be capable of initiating ideas for extending coverage of the Fund's activities. Age is not critical but the requirements suggest that applicants would probably not be less than 28 and should not be over 40.

The salary will be matched to experience and will be in line with similar appointments in the field of press relations. Please write or telephone for further particulars and an application form to:

The Recruitment Officer
The Save the Children Fund
157 Clapham Road SW9 0PT.
Telephone: 01-582 1414 ext. 31.



SECRETARY

For small informal office in West End. International Management Consultants. Strong typing skills, preferably with experience on IBM machines. Capable of dealing with periods of intense activity. Able to work with young men who are intelligent and very demanding. Salary £2,500 plus fringe benefits, non-contributory life and medical insurances. Please reply by sending a copy of your curriculum vitae and a note in your own handwriting to:

BOSTON CONSULTING GROUP LTD.,
Lex House
5 Burlington Gardens
London, W.1.

SECRETARY EARLY 20's

Cape Industries Limited, a major group, are now looking for a Secretary to work for their Personal Services Manager, and to assist with some administrative duties. This position is in the City of London, in a modern office near the Arch and would suit someone with good shorthand and typing skills, and a pleasant personality. Salary £2,500 plus fringe benefits. An attractive salary is offered along with an interest-free loan, staff restaurant and 4 weeks' holiday. If you would like to apply, please telephone Margaret Wrightson on 01-493 6622.

CAPE INDUSTRIES LIMITED,
114 Park Street, London, W.1.

V.S.O.

is an organisation entirely concerned with people and the poorer countries of the world and we are looking for a Personal Secretary for the Director. The successful applicant will need a full range of secretarial skills including taking minutes. Age 25 plus. Own office, electric typewriter. Salary negotiable but not less than £3,000 per annum. Four weeks' holiday per year and L.V.s.

Write or telephone Wendy Jones,
VOLUNTARY SERVICE OVERSEAS
14 Bishops Bridge Road, London W2 6AA
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